

**Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer  
International Olympics Committee  
P.O. Box 356,  
1007 LAUSANNE,  
SWITZERLAND**

August 15, 2021

**Dear Sirs,**

**RE: Complaint against the head Palestinian Olympic Committee,  
for violating the IOC Charter and Code of Ethics**

In a fundamental breach of not only the Olympic spirit but also the Olympic Charter and Code of Ethics, the head of the Palestinian Olympics Committee, Jibril Rajoub has again praised an Olympic athlete for withdrawing from an Olympic completion in order not to face an Israeli opponent.

Praising Algerian judoka Fethi Nourine for withdrawing from the competition rather than face an Israeli, when speaking to and Algerian radio station Rajoub said:

**“There is no place for meeting with anyone who is connected to this official terror (i.e., Israel), not in sports and not outside of sports. I hope that this will be a message to all the Arabs who are normalizing and those who are rushing [towards normalizing ties with Israel].”**



**Posted text:** “[Chairman of the Palestine Olympic Committee] #Jibril\_Rajoub to the #Algerian Oran radio [station]. He relates to Algerian judoka Fethi Nourine withdrawing (i.e., refusing to compete against an Israeli) and honors his **heroic position opposing normalization [with Israel]**.

#Long\_live\_Palestine

#Long\_live\_Algeria”

*Video:*

**Chairman of the Palestine Olympic Committee Jibril Rajoub:** “First, this (i.e., Algerian judoka Fethi Nourine refusing to compete against an Israeli) expresses the real and deep-rooted Algerian affiliation with Palestine, with the cause of Palestine. It also reflects the Algerian people’s firm decision that Palestine and the official Israeli aggression and terror that Palestine is facing- **There is no place for meeting with anyone who is connected to this official terror, not in sports and not outside of sports. I hope that this will be a message to all the Arabs who are normalizing and those who are rushing [towards normalizing ties with Israel]** (see note below -Ed.). Unfortunately, some of them are even rushing to make contracts with Israeli sports in the shadow of the oppression, the blockade, the complications, and the limitations that it is imposing and to which the Palestinian athletes are being subjected. Sir, the best of blessings to the Algerian people and blessings to this great athlete [Nourine]. We wish you all the best, calmness, and stability.”

[Facebook page of Chairman of the Palestine Olympic Committee Jibril Rajoub, July 24, 2021]

This post (last accessed by PMW on August 15, 2021) can be seen via this link: <https://www.facebook.com/Jibril.Rajoub/posts/365830644903511>

The next day Rajoub visited the athlete and made another statement:

**Jibril Rajoub:** “This (i.e., Nourine refusing to compete against an Israeli) expresses the real and deep-rooted Algerian affiliation with Palestine, with the cause of Palestine. The best of blessings to the Algerian people and blessings to this great athlete [Nourine]. We wish you all the best, calmness, and stability.”

The following is the video and text posted on Rajoub’s Facebook page documenting Rajoub’s meeting with the Algerian:

جبريل الرجوب Jibril Rajoub  
July 25 at 1:27 PM · G

#جبريل\_الرجوب موقف ليس مستغرباً من الجزائر العظيمة التي تتفوق دائماً بمواقفها الداعمة لشعبنا وقضيته العادلة.  
تحيا الجزائر



Video:

**Text on screen:** “Algerian judoka Fethi Nourine rejects normalization and supports the Palestinian cause

The Algerian judoka announced he was withdrawing from the Tokyo Olympics in order to avoid a potential encounter with the Israeli athlete [Chairman of the Palestine Olympic Committee] Lt. Gen. Jibril Rajoub visited the judoka where he was staying and thanked him for the loyal Algerian affiliation with Palestine”

**Chairman of the Palestine Olympic Committee Jibril Rajoub:** “This (i.e., Nourine refusing to compete against an Israeli) expresses the real and deep-rooted Algerian affiliation with Palestine, with the cause of Palestine. The best of blessings to the Algerian people and blessings to this great athlete [Nourine]. We wish you all the best, calmness, and stability.”

**Text on screen:** “Nourine expressed his firm position regarding the Palestinian cause while refusing to shake hands with the Israeli athlete.”

**Algerian judoka Fethi Nourine:** “Our position is firm and we are not retracting it. There have been Olympic Games, but Allah willing, My Lord will compensate me. The announcement [of my suspension by the International Judo Federation] came out of the blue. It was a light trauma, I did not expect it, but Allah be praised, the Palestinian cause must be above all else. We will not raise the Israeli flag and will not shake their hands.”

[Facebook page of Chairman of the Palestine Olympic Committee Jibril Rajoub, July 25, 2021]

This post (last accessed by PMW on August 15, 2021) can be seen via this link:  
<https://fb.watch/7oB8bpracw/>

This is not the first such statement made by Rajoub. Last year, Rajoub “conveyed blessings to all the Arab athletes who have refused to compete with Israeli athletes” and demanded the implementation of a universal Arab boycott of Israel in sports defined by Council of Arab Ministers for Youth and Sports:

“Rajoub... demanded to implement the clauses of the Executive Office's [of the Council of Arab Ministers for Youth and Sports] decision that are relevant to normalization in the field of sports and that were approved in advance: To refuse to participate in any event that the occupation state hosts; To refuse to host any event in which Israeli groups participate; and for every Arab athlete to refuse to compete against an Israeli athlete. He conveyed blessings to all of the Arab athletes who have refused to compete with Israeli athletes.”

[Official PA daily Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, Jan. 5, 2020]

Evidence of this call can be accessed at: <https://palwatch.org/page/17211>

At its most fundamental level, Rajoub’s statement breaches the “Fundamental Principles of Olympism” as set out in the IOC’s charter. Particularly, it breaches the fundamental principle of non-discrimination and the Olympic spirit, as set out in principles 4 and 6 of the charter.

Furthermore, Rajoub’s statements are in clear breach of Article 1, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 of the IOC Code of Ethics.

For many years Rajoub used and abused sports as a medium to promote and incite hatred, racism and violence. In Football, these practices were considerably curtailed once FIFA took disciplinary action against Rajoub, following a complaint from Palestinian Media Watch (PMW), imposing a heavy fine and banning him from football events for a year.

As opposed to FIFA, the IOC seems to have positively chosen to ignore the repeated breaches of the IOC Charter and Code of Ethics.

Three years ago, PMW submitted an extensive complaint against Rajoub to the IOC, but the IOC unfortunately ignored the writing on the wall and failed to take action against Rajoub. The complaint can be accessed at:  
<https://palwatch.org/page/10592>

In November 2020, PMW submitted an additional complaint, when Rajoub used official Palestinian Olympic Committee stationary to condemn “crime of normalization” with Israel in the field of sports. Shamefully, the IOC ignored this complaint too.

As the IOC ignores the repeated breaches of its Charter and Code of Ethics by Rajoub and the Palestinian Olympic Committee, the Palestinian Authority celebrates the terrorists who carried out the 1972 Munich massacre of the Israeli Olympians (<https://palwatch.org/page/20710>) and Rajoub refers with reverence to the planner of the attack, as one of the people who left the Palestinians a “heritage” (<https://www.palwatch.org/page/18619>).

Before the Rajoub’s hate speech leads to another massacre, it is time the IOC took firm action.

**Yours sincerely,**



**Itamar Marcus**  
**Director**  
**Palestinian Media Watch**



**Maurice Hirsch, Adv.**  
**Director of Legal Strategies**  
**Palestinian Media Watch**