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Press Release

The International Taekwon-Do Foundation of New Zealand inc (ITFNZ) and its members wishes to formally disassociate itself from the 'Taekwondo sport' as displayed at the 29th Olympic Games in Beijing, CHINA.

The 'sport of Taekwondo' at the Olympics is controlled by the **World Taekwon-Do Federation** (WTF) and is totally separate from the version of Taekwon-Do as established by its founder, the late General Choi Hong Hi. ITFNZ's outrage is amplified by the fact that we share the same name and the display given by the Cuban athlete at the Olympic Games will unfortunately reflect badly on all Taekwondo exponents, regardless of which organisation they belong to.

ITFNZ is affiliated to the International Taekwon-Do Federation (ITF) which was formed in 1966 by General Choi. The current ITF Taekwon-Do President, Master Trân Triêu Quân, has in recent years been at the forefront of the development of ITF Taekwon-Do as a disciplined martial art, a sport, a way of life and a tool for social development. This is now an integral and vital part of the teaching syllabus for the ITF, and this is why we are so disappointed with the negative repercussions of the incident at the 29th Olympic Games.

We acknowledge and agree with the swift action of the officials at the Olympics to instigate a lifetime ban on the Cuban competitor; we fully endorse their response.

Yours truly,

Master Evan Davidson

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