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Imminent execution: Athleten Deutschland calls for supporting Navid Afkari

Berlin, 10th September, 2020. Athleten Deutschland calls on the Iranian judiciary to stop the announced execution of the Iranian wrestler Navid Afkari, and thus has joined the international movement of sports and human rights organizations around the World Players Association in the past days.

Maximilian Klein, Representative for International Sports Policy: *"We are confident that the German government is already doing everything in its power to halt the execution. At the same time, the IOC, influential sports associations such as United World Wrestling (UWW) or FIFA, as well as sponsors must use their influence to save Navid from death. A country that tramples on human rights in such a way cannot be part of the global sports world that is committed to the preservation of human dignity."*

Johannes Herber, CEO of Athleten Deutschland, adds: *"We call on all athletes to unite in solidarity with Navid Afkari. As the athlete and sports community, we must protect him. If an athlete's peaceful protest is countered with torture and execution, we cannot remain silent."*

The 27-year-old wrestler was sentenced to death twice after being tortured into making a false confession over the murder of a security officer after participating in a demonstration against the economic and political situation in the country in 2018.

The petition for Navid Afkari can be signed [here](#). Solidarity expressions can be shared on social media under the hashtag #SaveNavidAfkari

About Athleten Deutschland e.V.:

Athleten Deutschland was founded in 2017 to give Germany's top-level athletes a real say for the first time in the sporting system. The association is committed to deep changes in the German and international sport system. Effective athletes' representation as well as athletes' development and protection are always at the heart of our activities.

Together with our members, we strive for world-class conditions that offer them the opportunity to develop their sporting and personal potential. We stand up for fair and clean sports, free of abuse and violence, manipulation and mismanagement. To fulfil our mission, we cooperate with various actors from public authorities and political stakeholders, business, science and civil society, as well as with like-minded partners in Europe and the world.

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