



OLYMPIC TRUCE  
INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE  
BUREAU OF COORDINATION

PRESS RELEASE

APPEAL BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
FOR AN OLYMPIC TRUCE

Lillehammer, 11th February 1994. The United Nations Secretary General, Mr Boutros Boutros-Ghali, has sent a message to the IOC President, in which he expressed the importance he attaches to the IOC's initiative concerning the Olympic truce.

This is the complete text of the message:

"The International Olympic Committee has called for a general cease-fire during the forthcoming Olympic Winter Games in Lillehammer, Norway. On behalf of the United Nations Organization, I wish to offer my full support for this initiative.

"At a time when crises are multiplying, when conflicts are emerging within the very heart of nations, this truce provides a gleam of light in a world beset by hate and destruction.

"The purpose of the Olympic Truce is to silence weapons for several days, allowing lives to be saved wherever combat rages. I hope also that it will facilitate dialogue between warring parties, and encourage negotiations with a view to settling disputes peacefully.

"The Olympic ideal is a hymn to tolerance and understanding between people and cultures. It is an invitation to competition, but competition in the respect for others. In its way, Olympism is a school of democracy. There is a natural link between the ethics of the Olympic Games and the fundamental principles of the United Nations.

"This is what the General Assembly of the United Nations wished to underline by proclaiming 1994 the Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal.

"The Games in Lillehammer will not be solely a festival of sport: thanks to the Olympic truce, they will spread a message of hope to millions of women, men and children who are suffering because of war.

"I therefore solemnly urge all political and military leaders in countries engaged in conflict to observe the Olympic truce and, on this occasion, to take the path of dialogue and peace."



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