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Olivier Niamkey
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Dear Mr. Niamkey

ON BEHALF OF SHYAM DHAKAL

Shyam Dhakal has recently passed me full copies and recordings of his exchanges with the NOC and Solidarity since May requesting that I formally represent his interests in various issues that he feels are now too significant for him to handle further. And, after the prolonged obstruction to his training schedule resulting from them, he has also asked me to assist with the considerable logistics required for him to resume full time training in the Alps.

At the time of his request he had received no reply from you 14 days after his letter of 8 November in which he detailed serious problems involving the handling of his Solidarity funding and the processing of essential documentation by the NOC. However I understand that you informed him Wednesday that his file is now under investigation. We are much obliged for this.

I feel that any thorough investigation will require copies of the full documentation involved rather than the summary Shyam sent on 8 November and you are welcome to this upon request.

However that data, along with similar records of my tenure with the NOC and other material passed to me from third parties in Nepal, seems to evidence serious and ongoing malpractice by the NOC, and Mr. Jeevan Ram Shrestha in particular. Consequently we are content at present to limit distribution of this material in order to permit every opportunity for the matter to be quietly and amicably rectified.

In brief it would appear that Shyam has been unfairly hindered in his training and preparation to qualify for Vancouver after he refused to comply with several improper demands by the NOC. Moreover the careers of 3 Nepali athletes with 12 full seasons of training between them were destroyed as well as my own position and reputation when I attempted to alert others of what was happening inside the NOC. Hence Nepal no longer has a viable Alpine ski team, the sponsors have been cheated of their investment and dozens of trainers and support staff, indeed an entire local community in France, have seen their efforts given over many years entirely wasted.

At present Shyam feels deeply wronged. In his quest to become the first ever Nepali Alpine Olympian he has sacrificed 8 crucial years of career employment, contributed all his earnings and savings and risked serious bodily injury only to be denied his chance of success by his own officials. Besides ruinous delays in processing paperwork and robbing the athlete of his

dignity through needless and cruel harassment, the NOC only sent essential funding 6 months after it was due, failed to provide the documents required for visas and improperly barred him from using his former sponsors and trainers that were needed for equipment and logistics not supported by Solidarity funding. .

To avoid further extension of this dispute into formal channels, Shyam proposed a simple solution in his letter of 8 November requesting that his Solidarity scholarship be honoured as it was initially awarded, that he be allowed the normal right to be trained and assisted before and at Vancouver by his familiar coach and support staff and that special dispensation is awarded him for the few remaining FIS points that he has been directly prevented from bettering through the actions of his NOC. Under these circumstances he believes all the parties involved can meet at Vancouver and establish an amicable working relationship that would allow further representation in the future.

I believe these requests were reasonable and that any independent authority later assessing this issue would agree. Plainly he should not be financially penalised through the failure of the Olympic system to honour its pledges and contract with him. Plainly he cannot be expected to attend Vancouver alone amongst hostile and unqualified national officials without the normal professional team support enjoyed by every other athlete. And plainly, since he was improperly prohibited from receiving vital support from his erstwhile sponsors and trainers at a crucial time in his preparation, it is now impossible for him to safely trim his times by the remaining half second needed to formally qualify.

Sadly it is therefore no longer a simple issue of paying the funding that was promised to him for now there is insufficient time to use it effectively.

In view of the urgency pressed upon us by the Vancouver schedule and the complex arrangements involved I think this solution will only be feasible for the athlete and his support staff if it is agreed before 15 December. Beyond that date I very much fear that it will be impossible for me to address the logistics required to safely prepare him for competition at the very highest level in Vancouver.

Please understand that neither the Nepal Ski Association nor the NOC are able to provide any practical assistance to Shyam whatsoever. No Nepali official has any knowledge or experience of Alpine skiing. Moreover, although your Solidarity funding is much appreciated by Shyam, it can by no means meet the actual costs involved in Alpine race training and participation. Consequently, as the only person seemingly able and willing to support Shyam enough to reach Vancouver, he has appealed to me for assistance.

I therefore request that you urgently forward this letter to the relevant departments within the IOC for them to avert the terrible injustice that will befall this conscientious athlete and very fine young man if he is prevented through these appalling circumstances from achieving his life long and well earned goal.

Thankfully yours

Richard Morley
On behalf of Shyam Dhakal.