



CONFEDERACIÓN ARGENTINA DE TAEKWON-DO ITF

Brothers and sisters of the ITF Taekwon-Do community:

In recent days, it has come to my attention that Mr. **Ri Yong Son**, during the General Assembly of the “North Korean Taekwon-Do Championship” held in Jesolo, Italy, made a series of statements which must be clarified and firmly rejected. Three of these claims are particularly serious due to their **falsehood**, their **attempt to manipulate history**, and the **damage they cause to the Taekwon-Do community worldwide**:

1. The alleged greeting from Madame Choi

It is absolutely false that Madame Choi sent greetings or messages of support to this event. There has been no contact of any kind with that group for many years. Using her name in an attempt to legitimize themselves is profoundly dishonest and a blatant disrespect to our Mother of Taekwon-Do and to the entire ITF family.

2. The elimination or modification of pattern Tong-Il

It is unacceptable to attempt to eliminate a pattern created by General Choi Hong Hi himself, a philosophical heart of our art and a symbol of his dream of unification and peace for Korea. Altering or suppressing Tong-Il is a true cultural sacrilege: it is equivalent to changing the meaning of a book, the lyrics of a song, or the essence of a work of art. Such actions are not based on technical needs, but on political motives that betray the Founder’s spirit.

3. The attempt to appropriate the ITF name and trademarks

We also reject the actions of those who seek to register the ITF name and logos as their own, self-proclaiming themselves the “original organization”, when the entire world knows that North Korea was the **last** country to which ITF Taekwon-Do was introduced. This is not tradition—it is opportunism. It is not legacy—it is an illegitimate and improper appropriation.

Defending the truth is a moral obligation.

Such conduct not only distorts history—it confuses honest practitioners, corrupts the message of General Choi, and degrades the spirit of our discipline.

The reprehensible actions of Mr. Ri Yong Son are deeply contradictory: on one hand he presents himself publicly as a defender of the North Korean regime and its



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policies, while on the other hand—and behind the back of that same regime—he engages in questionable activities and agreements for his own personal benefit. This double-standard behavior reveals a total lack of integrity, moral consistency, and ethical coherence.

(Reference: <https://www.vindobona.org/article/north-korean-agents-in-vienna-a-network-of-espionage-and-currency-procurement>)

In Argentina—a country with a long ITF tradition—we have initiated civil and criminal legal actions to defend the rights of our community and to protect the true legacy of the art we love, a legacy that belongs to humanity, not to political interests nor personal ambitions. It must be clearly understood: supporting the so-called “International Taekwon-Do Federation” of North Korea means collaborating with a regime internationally accused of **terrorist practices and human-rights violations**.

Let us remember the eternal words of General Choi Hong Hi:

“I leave Taekwon-Do for humanity, as a footprint of man in the 20th century. The 24 patterns represent the 24 hours of one day, or my entire life.”

We will not allow this legacy to be manipulated, mutilated, or used for purposes that have nothing to do with the original spirit of ITF Taekwon-Do.

For the truth, for history, for the legacy and the entire Taekwon-Do family.

GM Choi Néstor Galarraga