



## **World Olympians Association Statement on Iranian wrestler Navid Afkari**

**Lausanne, 12 September 2020:**

### **A statement from Joël Bouzou, President, World Olympians Association:**

“On behalf of the global Olympian community WOA today expresses its profound shock and sadness at the execution of Iranian wrestler Navid Afkari. WOA stood with the IOC and President Thomas Bach OLY in their appeals for mercy and are gravely upset that their combined efforts were not successful.

“Navid’s dream to become an Olympian was cruelly ended, but this terrible time makes us even more motivated to build up athletes and Olympians as role models within society. They possess the power to transcend sport to promote diversity, tolerance and positive values that make a difference everywhere. We extend our heartfelt condolences to Navid’s family, colleagues and friends.”

### **Joël Bouzou OLY**

President, World Olympians Association

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### **About World Olympians Association**

WOA is the member organisation for the more than 120,000 Olympians worldwide. Our remit is to work for the benefit of all Olympians at all stages of their lives, empowering them to serve society and help make the world a better place. With 149 member National Olympians Associations (NOAs) spread across all five continents, WOA provides support to Olympian-run events and projects based on the Olympic ideals laid down by the founder of the modern Olympics, Pierre de Coubertin.

### **For More Information**

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