

2008.6.23

To the members of the International Olympic Committee,

A Petition

In the season of the barley harvest, we would like to pay our sincere respect to you who are exerting yourself to the success of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. We are a civic group that works to eliminate discrimination against Hansen's disease sufferers and recuperators, and support them.

According to the news report of *Jinghua*, as well as the Japanese language *Beijing Review*, in the "legal guide for foreigners about a wide range of issues such as their entry, exit, tourism and accommodation in the country" that the Beijing Olympic Committee issued on June 2nd, it states that foreigners who "have mental illness, Hansen's disease, venereal disease, or epidemic diseases like open TB" will be "refused to board, enter China, or be fined." We were greatly surprised to read this letter.

Not only is this measure unnecessary for medical reasons, it is also likely to produce a feeling of fear and to add to prejudice and discrimination against those who have mental illness, Hansen's disease, those recuperated from Hansen's disease, venereal disease such as AIDS, open TB and so forth. To eliminate prejudice and discrimination against these people has become international public opinion.

We urge you to lift the measure of the ban on entry as soon as possible. We would like you to consider our request so that those patients and disabled people could also enjoy watching the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

We sincerely wish for the success of the peaceful festivities of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

Hansen's Disease Problems Hometown Network Toyama
(Address)

To World Health Organization

A Petition

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To International Leprosy Association

A Petition

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