



Our ref. 2026.002.ITF

Lublin, Poland – 8th January 2026

Dear Grand Masters, Masters, Instructors,
Leaders of continental and national associations

Dear ITF Members,

I am writing to you with information concerning the aggressive actions undertaken by another ITF organization located in Vienna, Austria, and commonly known as **NK-ITF**, which is supported and fully controlled by the North Korean regime.

These coordinated actions have included the harassment of members of our organization, sponsors, local clubs and other taekwon-do practitioners, with the sole goal of disrupting the legitimate activity of this federation and intimidating its members. Such actions have resulted in the blocking of social media channels not only of our Federation — the largest International Taekwon-Do Federation— but also of the third biggest ITF organization which is located in London, UK, and whose President is Grand Master Choi Jung Hwa, the son of the Founder, **General Choi Hong Hi**.

The actions at issue have been undertaken by the NK-ITF, represented by Mr. **Giuseppe Lanotte**, an Italian lawyer and Secretary-General of NK-ITF in Italia (FITSPORT). Mr. Lanotte was previously a member of FITAE until 2004, and is now attempting to block all other ITFs from continuing with its regular and legitimate activity on the basis of certain trademark rights owned by himself and limited only to Italy.

Acting without scruples or respect, and in direct contradiction to the principles of unity and ethics of Taekwon-Do, NK-ITF has employed unfair practices such as mass reporting in social media, formal complaints, attempts to seize rights, and intimidation of club leaders, all aimed at discrediting our Federation and others. We will clearly and firmly fight these unlawful and abusive actions.

These actions constitute a clear violation of the principles established by **General Choi Hong Hi**, who founded the International Taekwon-Do Federation in 1966 as a path toward peace, moral development, and mutual respect — not political division or coercion.



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Even more important, these actions violate an **Agreement Outside the Court** signed between **NK-ITF and our ITF** in the presence of legal representatives on **11th June 2014 in Vienna, Austria**. Under this agreement, both parties committed to immediately cease and permanently terminate all court proceedings — present and future — relating to any circumstances or claims based on facts existing on or prior to the date of the agreement. This included, among others, trademark rights. Both parties also confirmed their firm commitment **not to slander, calumniate, or defame each other in any form or content** following the signing of the agreement.

Our Federation has **consistently and fully respected this agreement**. Unfortunately, this cannot be said of **NK-ITF or Mr. Lanotte**, who continue to act in contradiction to both the letter and spirit of the agreement, repeatedly creating obstacles for our Federation.

Our organization as a responsible leader and true continuator of **General Choi Hong Hi's** legacy, is fully prepared to defend its rights — legally, technically, and diplomatically.

We are working closely with our trademark lawyers to restore access to our communication channels and to protect our global community.

Please reach out to us in case you have any questions or concerns regarding this topic. We will keep you duly informed of any further developments.

Taekwon!

Yours sincerely,

Tadeusz Loboda
Secretary General
International Taekwon-Do Federation

