

Mr. Andrew Parsons
President
International Paralympic Committee

Adenaueralle 212-214
53113 Bonn
Germany

May 14, 2021

Subject: Call for the Immediate Cancellation of the Tokyo Paralympic Games

Dear Mr. Parsons,

As the initiator of the petition “Cancel the Tokyo Olympics to Protect Our Lives” on the Change.org website – which has received approximately 350,000 signatures as of May 14, 2021 (as of 3:00 on May 14, we have reached 350,267 signatures) –, I, Kenji Utsunomiya, submit this petition demanding the cancellation of the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The large number of signatures obtained confirm the fact that it would be impossible to organize the Olympic and Paralympic games safely due to the widespread outbreak of COVID-19 afflicting nearly the entire world, including the host city, Tokyo. Indeed, for the third time now, Tokyo as well as several other regions in Japan have been put under a state of emergency. The total number of cases as well as hospital occupancy rate continue to rise. One year of the pandemic has pushed national medical institutions to a state of collapse and, unfortunately, this is also the case in most countries around the world.

As WHO has confirmed, the pandemic is far from over. To hold the Olympic and Paralympic Games would cause a massive movement of people and would surely endanger the health of not only Japanese people but also those who come to the country for the sake of the games. Under these circumstances, it is my regret to say that the games would not be welcomed by the people of the world.

Therefore, I demand that the International Paralympic Committee cancel the Tokyo Paralympic games immediately and without condition.

Kenji Utsunomiya

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(Reference)

Petition made on the website 'Change.org'

We demand the cancellation of the Tokyo Olympic Games in order to protect our lives and well-being.

The following organizations are currently forcibly pushing to pursue the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games: the International Olympic Committee, International Paralympic Committee, Japanese Government, Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Yet, as numbers show, the widespread outbreak of COVID-19 is not at all under control. Although vaccination efforts started at the end of last year, the distribution of vaccines is limited to economically developed countries and thus the pandemic is far from over.

Is hosting the Olympics worth risking our lives?

Under these circumstances, there is no doubt that it would be extremely difficult to safely hold the Tokyo Olympics. If the games are pursued, the Olympics would be denying their own purpose of "celebrating peace". There would be disadvantageous gaps between athletes, with significant differences in their ability to train and prepare for the games. Additionally, restrictive regulations will likely put athletes under extreme stress, making it impossible for them to achieve their best performances.

The Tokyo Olympic Games will not be possible without help from countless healthcare workers, medical institutions, and valuable medical resources. Multiple medical professionals, however, have already informed the public that they do not have the capacity to handle increased demands. Though no foreign viewers will be accepted into the country, the games will cause vast movement of people and therefore contact. It is highly likely that holding the Olympics will result in a super-spreader event and worsen the situation that we are already in.

The lack of medical resources that Tokyo and the rest of Japan is suffering from should suggest the extent to which the games will create danger and fear among healthcare workers, citizens, and participants.

Use limited resources not to host the Olympics, but to protect our lives.

COVID-19 is threatening not only our lives but also our economy. The livelihoods of women as well as elderly and youth demographics with temporary jobs have dramatically worsened in just one year. Currently, many are relying on the food and housing provided by non-government organizations. Instead of providing these vulnerable individuals with assistance, the Japanese Government and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government continue to use their budget to pay additional costs for the Olympics. (The total additional cost is calculated at 300 billion yen, approximately 2.7 billion US dollars.)

If the fundamental principle of the government is to protect the citizens' lives and well-being, the government must declare the cancellation of the Olympic Games as soon as possible, and instead use its limited resources to protect the lives of those struggling due to the pandemic.

Listen to the voices coming from Japan and across the world, and cancel the games.

Both domestic and foreign polls show just how many people are asking to either cancel or postpone the Olympics. Countless Japanese and international media outlets, politicians, and athletes have also argued that the games should not be held.

It is disconcerting that it is taking this long for both the Japanese Government and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government to declare the cancellation of the Games, but it is not too late to do so. We strongly demand that the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games be cancelled, and that the resources made available by their cancellation be utilized to prevent further infections and protect the lives of the people.

(Original text available: <https://www.change.org/p/cancel-the-tokyo-olympics-to-protect-our-lives-stop-tokyo-olympic-cancel-the-tokyo-olympics>)

Petition Outline

- **Petition Title:** We demand cancellation of the Tokyo Olympic Games
in order to protect our lives and well-being.
- **Founder:** Utsunomiya Kenji
- **Petition Destinations:**
 - Thomas Bach, President, International Olympic Committee
 - Andrew Parsons, President, International Paralympic Committee
 - Suga Yoshihide, Prime Minister
 - Marukawa Tamayo, Minister, Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games
 - Koike Yuriko, Tokyo Governor
 - Hashimoto Seiko, President, Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games Organizing Committee
- **Launch date:** May 5th, 2021 (12:00 PM)
- **End date:** This petition campaign will continue until the decision is made to cancel the Tokyo Olympics.

Change.org (<http://chnng.it/hGvJXDbth9>)

Absage der Olympischen Spiele in Tokio, um unser Leben zu schützen!

ABSAGE DER OLYMPISCHEN SPIELE IN TOKIO UM UNSER LEBEN ZU SCHÜTZEN!

350,170 人が賛同しました。もう少しで 500,000 人に到達します！

宇都宮けんじ Kenji Utsunomiyaさんが賛同しました

Franziska Müllerさんが15 分前賛同しました

B Ackermannさんが17 分前賛同しました

名字

名前

Eメールアドレス

Sugekita, 214-0008
日本

発信者：宇都宮けんじ Kenji Utsunomiya 宛先：Thomas Bach (President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC))、5人の別の宛先

JP / EN / FR



Petition supporters' voices in Japan

Below are comments received from those who signed the petition in Japan.

(English translation)

- "I do not understand the reason to hold the Olympics when our medical care system is already in a state of collapse" (Nurse)
- "It's impossible to host the Olympics in a country where not enough facilities and hospital beds can be provided even for domestic citizens."
- "The event will be held at the expense of the citizens' health. The government must wake up."
- "The government has responded so loosely to the pandemic, solely to be able to host the Olympics as planned. I'm in rage!"
- "The IOC is being extremely irresponsible. As much as I feel sorry for the athletes, there are others who I feel more sorry for."
- "If the government cares for human life at all, they must wait to host the Olympics until the majority of the population is vaccinated. The government should not expect the public to tolerate the fact that we have the lowest vaccination rate of any developed country."
- "Canceling the Olympics would be the biggest COVID19 safety protocol."
- "I don't want to see the Olympics worsen the situation that Japan is currently in!"
- "Children can't play in the playgrounds, and can't even go outside freely - Sapporo's elementary and middle schools were stripped from their annual graduations trips. My 6th grade child told me with tearful eyes, 'I don't have any good memories from 5th and 6th grade.' I can't possibly enjoy watching the Olympics when put in a situation like this. Why call the Olympics a 'celebration of peace' when only the wealthy would benefit from this, not the majority, nor our children."
- "While people in Japan are asked to refrain from leisurely activities, countless foreigners are allowed to come to the country? Olympics are allowed when all other events in Japan are cancelled? Only a stupid government would think with such logic - subsidies aren't being given out efficiently, and you expect small businesses to stay closed while you prepare for the Olympics? Who will listen to you, the government, when everything is so illogical?"