



The Paris Olympics 2024: Facing Some Critical Political Issues

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**A tremendous
success...**



An overall view

- Despite the mixed and controversial reviews on the Opening Ceremony the competitions of the 2024 Games were truly exceptional.
- The athletes' remarkable performances and the overwhelming spectator engagement at all hours contributed to this elevation



However, it has to be admitted, that the Opening Ceremony did face some criticism.

- The Opening Ceremony did face criticism



ITS PROLONGED FOCUS ON A SPECIFIC ISSUE OF INCLUSIVITY,



THE CONTINUOUS PLAYBACK OF ARTISTIC PERFORMANCES,



THE UNCONVENTIONAL LIGHTING OF THE OLYMPIC FLAME USING A BALLOON ADORNED WITH 28 LED LIGHTS INTENDED TO REPRESENT THE FLAME,

More than 300,000 spectators gathered along the Seine, only to end up watching the event on screens.



The use of the post-rain, murky waters of the Seine for the Triathlon and Open Water Marathon was questionable



The Paris 2024 Olympic Games may well be remembered as one of the best delivered Games ever.....

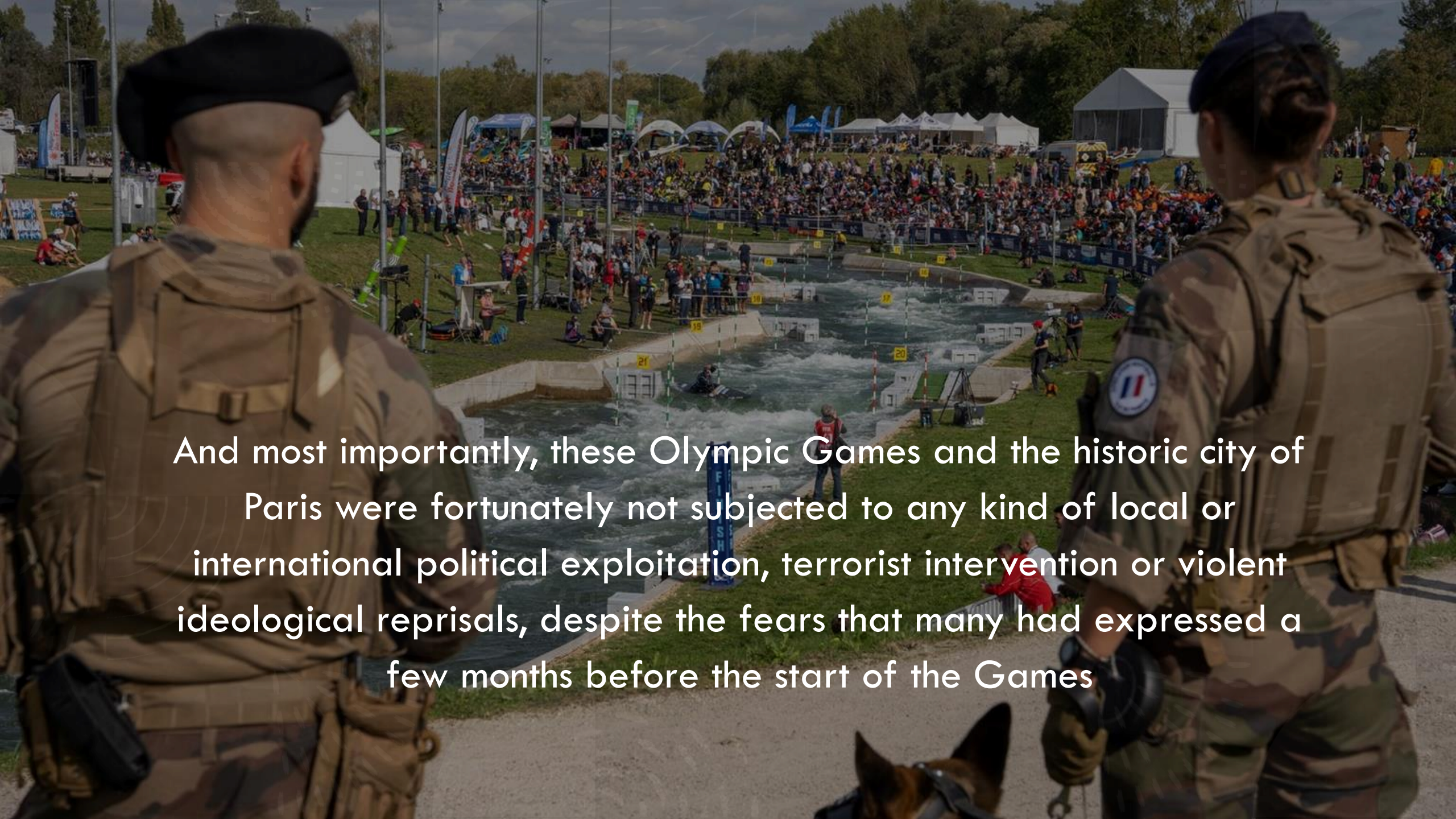
Excellent sports facilities, full of spectators, with the parallel projection of the historical buildings that surrounded them



The exceptionally inspiring route of the Marathon through the city centre and the sights of Paris gave viewers the opportunity to and admire the beauty of Paris.



The Olympic Games and the historic city of Paris were fortunately not subjected to any kind of local or international political exploitation, terrorist attack or violent ideological reprisals

The image shows two riot police officers in the foreground, seen from behind. They are wearing tan tactical vests, black berets, and camouflage pants. The officer on the right has a French flag patch on his sleeve. They are looking out over a large, crowded outdoor event. In the middle ground, there is a water sports competition area with rapids and numbered buoys. A large crowd of spectators is gathered on the grassy banks. In the background, there are white tents and trees under a clear sky. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

And most importantly, these Olympic Games and the historic city of Paris were fortunately not subjected to any kind of local or international political exploitation, terrorist intervention or violent ideological reprisals, despite the fears that many had expressed a few months before the start of the Games

Political analysts were heavily concerned:

“...given the chaos around the globe, we can expect many acts of protest and disruption both inside and outside the stadiums of Paris”.

Taking under consideration

a logical approach,
considering the
messages it can send
in all directions an
intervention of violence
in the impressive
peaceful gathering

**the two major armed
conflicts** threatening even
international peace,
between Russia and
Ukraine and Israel and
Palestine

AND

**the internal social
conflicts** in France
against the
Macron
government

**And yet, contrary to
what the "experts"
expected**

No demonstrations in the
streets of Paris,
nor terrorist attempts
throughout the French capital,
nor provocative behaviour
among the members of the
delegations, coming from war
zones, were observed.



FRANCE



Macron, made the **salto mortale** and call for elections in the middle of protest demonstrations just before the Games. A dangerous choice by putting him and the Olympic Movement in a difficult position.

The city full
of police
and
barricades
alien to their
habits

Even those who stayed
in Paris, did not seem
to be satisfied with the
spectacle, preferring
not to participate

A country
that was
technically
ungovernab
le.

FRANCE after the Games

French **were** fascinated by what France, and Paris in particular delivered!

The presence at the Games of so many State Leaders strengthened Macron's position internationally

France **received** Excessive positiveness and less negative features.

Averted the downturn in business confidence, seen, since late 2023

According to the Bank of France, business uncertainty in the third quarter fell to its lowest level since the last quarter of 2023



Was Macron right to call the national elections **BEFORE** the Games or would it have been better for him to hold the elections **AFTER** the Olympics?

Michael Payne, former head of marketing for the IOC, and an expert of the Olympic Movement:



"The French president is seen abroad as 'the leader who made it'", but stressed that "Macron made a strategic mistake by calling the early elections before the Olympics and not after."

Emmanuel Macron said in an interview with sports daily L'Equipe



"All those who didn't believe in the Games, were wrong. Often, when you turn on the television or read a newspaper, there is talk of decline. The French have rediscovered that they can do great things together,"

Russia - Ukraine



Concerns about what was going to happen when the Olympic Games would be held without the official participation of Russia (and Belarus), for the first time since 1984

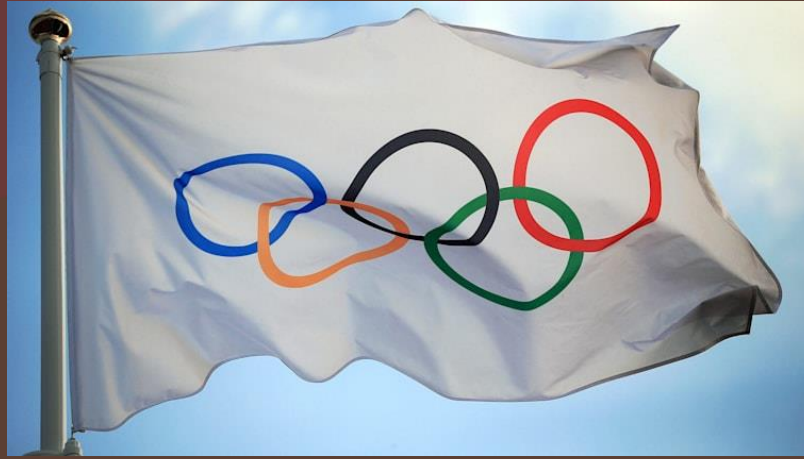
No one noticed!

Concerns about the participation of independent athletes for fear of what would happen to them when they returned to the two excluded Countries.

But at the end, 37 athletes participated in 12 events and won 5 medals! And they went back to their home countries without, any exclusion or isolation by the two Governments

Concerns about the threatened boycott by 36 European governments.

No government managed finally to bend the Olympic Movement by interfering in its activities



The Paris Games have demonstrated the power of the International Olympic Committee not only in the sporting world but also in the international political arena.

The first impact of the Paris 2024 Games on the international political community is a message of Peace to the free world that sport and Olympism **respect human rights and have their own way enforcing them!!!**

Israel - Palestine



And then Hamas attacked Israel
and then Israel invaded Gaza...

As positive was in the case of the war between Russia and Ukraine, the treatment of the war between Israel and Palestine created confusion with different perspectives

The questions are:

Did IOC react in the same way with the case of its two warring members, Israel and Palestine?

What were the differences between these two conflicts that led the IOC to treat them differently?

In the first case, we have an unprovoked invasion of an independent state, while in the second, we have a provoked invasion of an independent territory!

The existence or not of a provocative action, does not justify in any way the scale and the brutality that the aggressors employs in order to achieve their objectives.

Israel - Palestine



The IOC took a stand **condemning Russia for violating the rules of the Olympic Movement** and the UN, since the invasion took place during the **International Olympic Truce**

On the other hand, the IOC was called upon to confront the tragic attack by Hamas, and the **kidnapping of a large number of hostages**, which triggered an **unprecedented attack** on Palestinian territory by Israel with the well-known tragic results since last October

It is true that the IOC has tried and succeeded in **achieving an equal treatment** of the two warring sides, and as a result, the IOC **invited the athletes of both Olympic Committees to participate in the Games.**

Do the two war cases, defer ?

The issue is not only to what extent these two-armed conflicts resemble each other **but also where they differ.**

In the first, we have an **unprovoked invasion** of an independent state, while in the second, we have a **provoked invasion** of an independent territory !

Of course, the existence or not of a provocative action, **DOES NOT JUSTIFY in any way the scale and the brutality that the aggressors employ in order to achieve their objectives.**

Were the two cases, Russia vs. Ukraine & Israel vs. Palestine treated in the same way?

Some said: "The IOC's silence in the case of Israel, illuminated a double standard. After all, when Russia invaded Ukraine two years earlier, the group was quick to respond, condemning Russia for its bellicosity".

At what point does an armed conflict concern the function and mission of the IOC as the guardian of the Olympic Principles and Values?

These analysts forget, intentionally or not, that the IOC interest **is not the results of the military incursions** on both sides "per se", but whether an **Olympic Value or ideal** has been violated, such as the **Olympic Truce** or whether human rights related to the basic principles of its Charter are violated!

At what point does an armed conflict concern the function and mission of the IOC as the guardian of the Olympic Principles and Values?

IOC President Thomas Bach



«The International Olympic Committee and the Olympic Games cannot prevent wars and conflicts. Nor can they address all the political and social challenges in our world. This is the realm of politics. And the mission of a political organisation. But the Olympic Games can set an example for a world where everyone respects the same rules and one another».

The fact that there were no frictions and other kinds of violations of the Olympic Movement's ethics during the Games, **took a lot of luck!**

Israel - Palestine



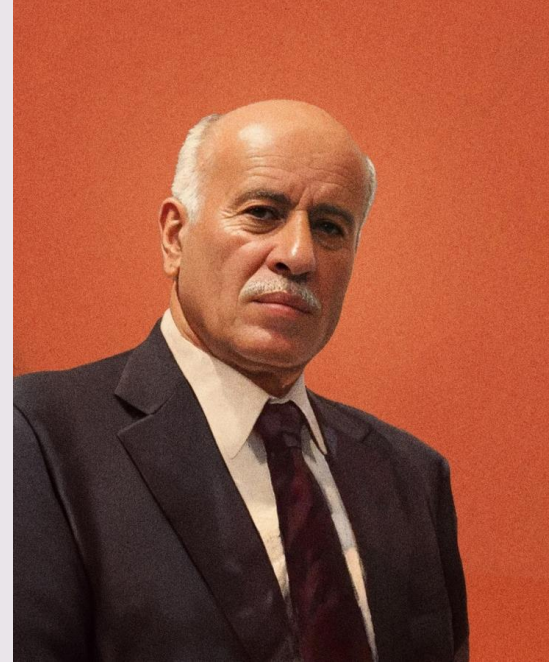
Initially, the Palestine Olympic Committee President **Jibril Rajoub** has called the IOC for **a ban on Israeli athletes** from participating in the Paris Olympics.

Everybody was expecting unethical behavior among athletes representing Israel, Palestine or Iran, especially following **public statements** by some of them.

Jibril Rajoub

Palestine Olympic Committee President

“I will not engage with Yael Arad the
Israely NOC President or her
colleagues out of principle if they
crossed paths during the Olympics!!!”



Mr Jibril Rajoub



Mrs Yael ARAD

Feras Badawi

Palestinian Judoist



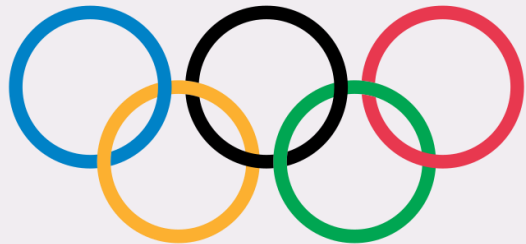
"I think at the Olympics, we are here to make peace, but if you are making war in our country and want to make peace here, it's like you have two faces, and I will never compete against Israeli athletes or shake their hands amid the ongoing conflict in Gaza".

Helas How close to the Olympic Principles are all the above statements?



Concluding...

PARIS 2024



**Now the Games of charming Paris
and the heartbreak is over.**

**No provocation and no terrorist
threat**



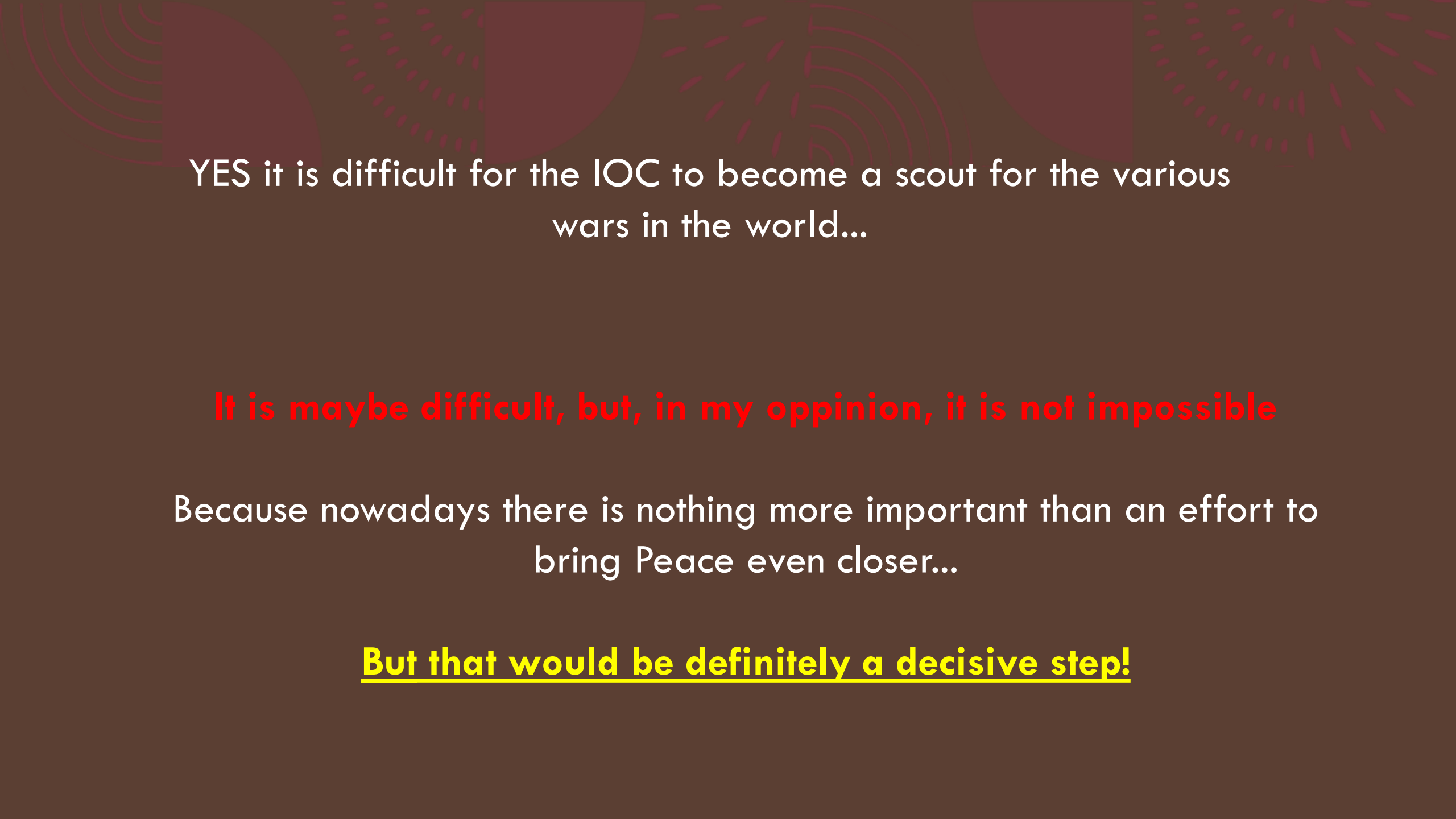
The more the Olympic Movement grows and acquires the momentum that makes it autonomous, the more political interference in its functioning and the more the fear of a mass boycott or an act of terrorist violence will be removed.

Those who would like to harm in any way this great sporting and cultural celebration should seriously consider the impact their action would have on public opinion.... Instead of finding supporters, they would create new enemies and the message they would want to get across would boomerang and ultimately hurt them!



To all those who believe in Peace and in the importance, even in the modern world, of the international Olympic Truce.

- Why should those who **"BREAK AN ARMED CONFLICT DURING THE Olympic Truce"** be considered to have violated the Olympic Truce and should not those who **"CONTINUE AN ARMED CONFLICT DURING THE Olympic Truce"** be punished?



YES it is difficult for the IOC to become a scout for the various wars in the world...

It is maybe difficult, but, in my oppinion, it is not impossible

Because nowadays there is nothing more important than an effort to bring Peace even closer...

But that would be definitely a decisive step!



Thank you
for your attention