

## Patricia Kranz

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**From:** Patricia Kranz  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 11, 2021 2:04 PM  
**To:** 'Mark.Adams@olympic.org'; 'Christian.Klaue@olympic.org';  
'magali.martowicz@olympic.org'  
**Subject:** OPC Concerns regarding press freedom before and during 2022 Olympic Games  
**Attachments:** OPC concerns re 2022 Olympics.pdf

Greetings, The Overseas Press Club of America represents about 500 journalists engaged in international reporting, including many who have been based in China. We have written the attached letter to appeal to the International Olympic Committee to include press freedom issues in your dialogue now with the Chinese government as you prepare to stage the Winter Olympics in February 2022.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues further. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Warm regards,

Patricia Kranz  
Executive Director  
Overseas Press Club of America  
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New York, NY 10036  
patricia@opcofamerica.org



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May 11, 2021

Thomas Bach  
President, International Olympic Committee

Dear Mr. Bach,

The Overseas Press Club of America represents about 500 journalists engaged in international reporting and editing, including many who have been based in China. We and the organizations listed below appeal to you to include press freedom issues in your dialogue now with the Chinese government as you prepare to stage the Winter Olympics in February 2022. We ask that you use press freedom requirements in the Olympic Charter, the Host City Contract and your media accreditation process in a way that promotes Olympic values, including free and robust coverage of China.

The working environment for journalists in China has deteriorated, as this [report](#) from the Foreign Correspondents' Club of China documents. If these conditions are applied to journalists covering the Winter Olympics, they will compromise the media's ability to do its job properly and professionally.

It is essential that the IOC not allow this to happen. Rule 48 of the Olympic Charter states that all decisions concerning coverage of the games rest within the IOC.

We also believe it is not good enough to allow only sports journalists into the country to cover a limited number of events in a controlled bubble. Press freedom of the sort championed by the Olympics is not limited to coverage of the actual games. The Olympic Charter states that the IOC will "take all necessary steps to ensure the fullest coverage by the different media and the widest possible audience in the world."

One of the responsibilities—and opportunities—of any nation hosting the Olympics is to allow the world to take stock of it as a society and an economy. The world recognized the emergence of Japan when it sponsored the 1964 Summer Olympics and it welcomed South Korea to the world stage in 1988. It was China's moment in 2008 to be in the spotlight, and at that time it

allowed much more press and internet freedom, due in part to the IOC's insistence that China play by the rules.

We respectfully ask the IOC to:

- Require Chinese government assurance of non-surveillance and non-interference with international journalists and their Chinese sources.
- Receive assurances in writing from Chinese authorities that international news organizations can hire local staff of their choosing, without seeking approval from the Chinese government or going through state-affiliated personnel organizations.
- Receive assurances in writing from Chinese authorities that international journalists may interview without interference whoever agrees to be interviewed. The Chinese government should not retaliate against or arrest sources after the fact and should establish a hotline for violations.
- Urge China to establish clear guidelines for processing times for journalist visa applications, and to extend journalist visas to online-only media organizations and freelance journalists.
- Urge China to create a dedicated point of contact in the Public Security Bureau, staffed by people who are conversant in the law regarding foreign journalists and who can speak with authority to security officials elsewhere in China.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues further.

Sincerely,

Patricia Kranz  
Executive Director

William J. Holstein  
Co-chair, China Working Group

**Supporting Organizations:**

Alliance for Journalists' Freedom (Sydney)

ARTICLE 19 (London)

Coalition For Women In Journalism (New York)

A Culture of Safety (ACOS) (Barcelona)

Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma, Columbia University (New York)

Ethnovision (Belgrade)

Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan (Tokyo)

Foreign Correspondents' Club of South Asia (New Delhi)

Foreign Press Association (New York)

Frankfurter PresseClub (Frankfurt)  
Geneva Press Club (Geneva)  
Global Journalist Security (Washington)  
International Press Institute's North American Committee (New York)  
James W. Foley Legacy Foundation (Portsmouth, N.H. USA)  
London Press Club  
National Press Club of Australia (Canberra)  
Overseas Press Club Foundation (New York)  
National Press Club Inc. of New Zealand (Wellington)  
PEN America (New York)  
Press Club de France (Paris)  
Polish Club of International Columnists (Warsaw)  
Press Club Polska (Warsaw)  
Presseclub Concordia (Vienna)  
Press Club in Lille (Lille, France)  
Rory Peck Trust (London)  
Samir Kassir Foundation (Beirut)  
Signals Network (Paris, San Francisco)  
World Association of News Publishers (WAN-IFRA) (Paris)



## Patricia Kranz

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**From:** Patricia Kranz  
**Sent:** Monday, May 24, 2021 4:07 PM  
**To:** Mark.Adams@olympic.org; Christian.Klaue@olympic.org  
**Subject:** OPC request for a meeting with IOC  
**Attachments:** OPC-concerns-re-2022-Olympics\_\_.pdf

Dear Mr. Adams and Mr. Klaue:

On May 11, the Overseas Press Club of America and more than 25 other international media organizations sent the attached letter to International Olympic Committee President Joseph Bach appealing to the IOC to include press freedom issues in your dialogue with the Chinese government as you prepare to stage the Winter Olympics in February 2022.

Our concerns are based on the deteriorating working conditions for journalists in China as documented in a recent report from the Foreign Correspondents' Club of China (a live link to the report is in the attached letter). Our letter stressed that if these conditions are applied to journalists covering the Winter Olympics, they will compromise the media's ability to do its job properly and professionally.

We requested that the IOC use the press freedom requirements in the Olympic Charter, the Host City Contract and your media accreditation process in a way that promotes Olympic values, including free and robust coverage of China. We request that the IOC secure the following assurances from the Chinese government:

- That there be no surveillance and interference with international journalists and their Chinese sources.
- That international news organizations can hire local staff of their choosing.
- That international journalists will be able to interview without interference whoever agrees to be interviewed, without retaliation or arrest of these sources after the fact.
- That a hotline for media violations be established.
- That there be clear guidelines and processing times for journalist visa applications, and to extend journalist visas to online-only media organizations and freelance journalists.
- That China create a dedicated point of media contact in the Public Security Bureau.

The OPC now wishes to follow up on these requests and discuss next steps. We suggest that we set up a virtual meeting between OPC and IOC representatives at your earlier convenience.

Sincerely,

Patricia Kranz  
Executive Director  
Overseas Press Club of America  
212 626-9220  
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40 W. 45th Street  
New York, NY 10036  
[patricia@opcofamerica.org](mailto:patricia@opcofamerica.org)

## Patricia Kranz

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**From:** Christian KLAUE <christian.klaue@olympic.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2021 4:21 PM  
**To:** Patricia Kranz; Mark ADAMS  
**Subject:** RE: OPC request for a meeting with IOC

Dear Ms Kranz,

Thank you very much for your email to the IOC. Apologies for the late reply.

We will come back to you in June.

Best regards,  
Christian Klaue

**Christian Klaue**  
**Director**  
Corporate Communications and Public Affairs Department

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**Mobil.** +41 (0)79 742 1845 and +49 (0)160 96 98 19 88

**Email** [christian.klaue@olympic.org](mailto:christian.klaue@olympic.org)

International Olympic Committee  
Maison Olympique, 1007 Lausanne, Switzerland



International  
Olympic  
Committee

Corporate Communications and  
Public Affairs Department

Public

Overseas Press Club of America  
Ms Patricia Kranz  
Mr William J. Holstein  
40 West 45<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York  
NY 10036  
USA

Lausanne, 14 June 2021

Dear Executive Director Kranz, Dear Co-Chair Holstein,

Thank you for your letter and your interest in the Olympic Games.

We firmly believe that the Olympic Games are a platform for cooperation and constructive engagement, and it is on this basis that we work with all our hosts. The Olympic Games are the only event that brings the entire world together in peaceful competition.

The role of the Games and the IOC in promoting peace, unity and global solidarity was acknowledged in a United Nations' resolution last December, which was adopted by consensus. The resolution welcomed "with appreciation all upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games, in particular those to be held in Tokyo in 2021, in Beijing in 2022, in Paris in 2024, in Milano Cortina, Italy, in 2026 and in Los Angeles, United States of America, in 2028, as well as the Youth Olympic Games to be held in Dakar in 2026".

In addition, the G20 Leaders reiterated their strong support for the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 and the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 in the final declaration of their Virtual G20 Leaders' Summit last November, saying: "As a symbol of humanity's resilience and global unity in overcoming COVID-19, we commend Japan's determination to host the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 next year. (...) We look forward to the Beijing Winter Olympics in 2022."

We believe that the media plays a major role in delivering that constructive engagement through its coverage of the Olympic Games. This is why Rule 48.1 of the Olympic Charter states that: "The IOC takes all necessary steps in order to ensure the fullest coverage by the different media and the widest possible audience in the world for the Olympic Games."



The IOC has therefore taken important steps as part of the candidature process and is working constantly to ensure that the media are able to report on the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022.

The Evaluation Commission for the Olympic Winter Games 2022 wrote in its evaluation report: “During the evaluation process, the Commission considered statements and opinions in independent third-party reports with regard to environmental protection, the treatment of detainees, media freedom, Internet access, the right to demonstrate, and the integrity of the judicial and electoral systems. The Commission raised these issues with Beijing 2022 and government authorities and sought assurances that the Host City Contract and the Olympic Charter would be respected for all participants of the Olympic Games and in Olympic related matters. At the same time, the IOC has to respect the laws of a sovereign state. Written assurances were provided regarding the following matters: human rights, the right to demonstrate, media freedom to report on the Games with no restrictions on the Internet, labour rights, displacement and environmental protection. Taking these into consideration, as well as the open nature of the discussions with Beijing 2022 and government authorities and China’s experience from organising the 2008 Olympic Games and the 2014 Youth Olympic Games, the Commission is confident that the Government of China would take all necessary measures to ensure the Olympic Charter and Host City Contract would be respected.”

The report subsequently goes on to state: “Centrally located, temporary Mountain Media Centres would serve the Yanqing and Zhangjiakou Zones, with capacity for written press and broadcast media. The Government of China has offered assurances that media seeking to report on the Games would have freedom to report and unrestricted Internet access, and would also be free to report on Games preparations.”

This freedom to report on the Games is also confirmed in the Host City Contract for the XXIV Olympic Winter Games in 2022, which was signed by the host city authorities and says under section 53: “The OCOG must coordinate with the competent Host Country Authorities to ensure that: i. for the period starting with the opening of the International Broadcast Centre and of the Main Press Centre (approximately eight (8) weeks prior the scheduled commencement of the Games) until the end of the Paralympic Games, there shall be no restrictions or limitations on (a) the freedom of the media to provide independent news coverage of the Games and Paralympic Games as well as related events, and (b) the editorial independence of the material broadcasted or published by the media; (...)”

However, at the same time, the IOC has neither the remit nor the capability to change the laws or the political system of a sovereign country, including its rules that govern the ability of foreign media to cover stories outside the Olympic Games. This must remain the legitimate role of governments and respective intergovernmental organisations.

Given the diverse participation in the Olympic Games, the IOC must remain neutral on all global political issues. Awarding the Olympic Games to a National Olympic Committee

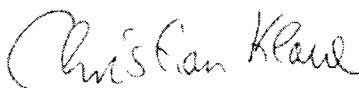
of a given country does not mean that the IOC agrees with the political structure, social circumstances or human rights standards in that country.

At all times, the IOC recognises and upholds human rights, as enshrined in both the Fundamental Principles of the Olympic Charter and in the IOC Code of Ethics. We are responsible for ensuring the respect of the Olympic Charter with regard to the Olympic Games, and you may rest assured that we take this responsibility very seriously.

We must be consistent and non-judgmental regarding the right of countries to govern themselves as they consider best for their own societies, whether or not other countries disagree or disapprove.

The Olympic Games are focused on the athletes, and for many of them it is going to be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to compete at an elite level without any discrimination, living together in one Olympic Village under the same roof and respecting the same rules. This IOC is determined to make these events a safe manifestation of peace, solidarity and the resilience of humankind in overcoming the pandemic.

Yours sincerely,



Christian Klaue  
Director  
Corporate Communications  
and Public Affairs



Mark Adams  
Director  
Spokesperson's Services

## Patricia Kranz

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**From:** Patricia Kranz  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 17, 2021 11:48 AM  
**To:** Christian KLAUE; Mark ADAMS  
**Cc:** Karina MONOD  
**Subject:** Thank you for your letter  
**Attachments:** OPC response to IOC 6.17.21.pdf

Dear Mr. Klaue and Mr. Adams, the OPC is grateful for your quick response. We still have some concerns, which we have outlined in the attached letter. We look forward to your response, Sincerely, Patricia

Patricia Kranz  
Executive Director  
Overseas Press Club of America  
212 626-9220  
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June 17, 2021

International Olympic Committee  
Christian Klaue, Director, Corporate Communications and Public Affairs  
Mark Adams, Director, Spokesperson's Services

Dear Mssrs. Klaue and Adams,

Thank you for your letter of 14 June. We agree that the Olympics stand for peace, solidarity and resilience. And we take your point that you cannot change the laws or political system of a sovereign country.

But you did not fully respond to the questions we and our co-signers asked about media coverage of the Winter Games in Beijing. To begin getting answers out to the thousands of journalists the signatories collectively represent, we would like to establish an ongoing dialogue with you as we approach February 2022.

The details are crucially important. Some questions that remain include:

- Will correspondents assigned to cover the Games be allowed to freely move around China to get a sense of what the Games mean to Chinese people and the world?
- Will news organizations be allowed to hire translators and local reporting partners without going through a government agency?
- Will the electronic devices of correspondents be subject to screening and surveillance?

There are many more such questions, including about the issuance of visas and over what length of time. May we schedule a face-to-face video call with you to discuss these issues? In the spirit of openness, we are informing our partner organizations about our conversations with you. In so doing, we could become a bridge between the IOC and the worldwide journalistic community.

We will soon follow up by telephone with you to schedule a mutually convenient date and time.

Sincerely,

Patricia Kranz  
Executive Director

William J. Holstein  
Co-chair, China Working Group

## Patricia Kranz

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**From:** Christian KLAUE <christian.klaue@olympic.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 7, 2021 9:54 AM  
**To:** Patricia Kranz; Mark ADAMS  
**Cc:** Karina MONOD  
**Subject:** RE: Thank you for your letter

Dear Ms Kranz,

Thank you for your message. As we are right now fully focused on Tokyo 2020 and delivering these Games, please allow us to come back to you in September.

Thanking you in advance for your kind understanding.

Best regards,  
Christian Klaue

**Christian Klaue**  
**Director**  
Corporate Communications and Public Affairs Department

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**Email** [christian.klaue@olympic.org](mailto:christian.klaue@olympic.org)

International Olympic Committee  
Maison Olympique, 1007 Lausanne, Switzerland

**TOKYO 2020**  
**23 July to 8 August**



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Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

**From:** Patricia Kranz <patricia@opcofamerica.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 17 June 2021 17:48  
**To:** Christian KLAUE <christian.klaue@olympic.org>; Mark ADAMS <mark.adams@olympic.org>  
**Cc:** Karina MONOD <karina.monod@olympic.org>  
**Subject:** Thank you for your letter

Dear Mr. Klaue and Mr. Adams, the OPC is grateful for your quick response. We still have some concerns, which we have outlined in the attached letter. We look forward to your response, Sincerely, Patricia

Patricia Kranz  
Executive Director  
Overseas Press Club of America

## Patricia Kranz

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**From:** Patricia Kranz  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 7, 2021 10:47 AM  
**To:** 'Christian KLAUE'; Mark ADAMS  
**Cc:** Karina MONOD  
**Subject:** RE: Thank you for your letter

Dear Mr. Klaue,

Thank you for your response. We look forward to talking with you in September. I hope the Toyko Olympics are a big success.

Warm regards, Patricia

## Patricia Kranz

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**From:** Christian KLAUE <christian.klaue@olympic.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 11:03 AM  
**To:** Patricia Kranz; Mark ADAMS  
**Cc:** Karina MONOD; Christian KLAUE  
**Subject:** RE: Thank you for your letter

Dear Ms Kranz,  
Dear Mr Holstein,

We refer to your letter from June this year and the questions raised with the IOC.

- In the meantime, the conditions for journalists at the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 have become clear. They are summarised in the [Playbook](#) for Broadcasters, International Federations, Marketing Partners, Olympic and Paralympic Family, Press and Workforce.

All Games participants will have to enter the closed loop and will not be able to leave it. Just last Friday, an international briefing on the Playbook was held with all media organisations that are accredited for Beijing, and all questions were answered by Beijing 2022 and the IOC.

- For the hiring of local translators or reporting partners, the *Regulations of the People's Republic of China on News Coverage by Permanent Offices of Foreign Media Organizations and Foreign Journalists* apply, Beijing 2022 confirmed to the IOC. The guidelines say: "The permanent office of a foreign media organization or a foreign journalist may, through organizations providing services to foreign nationals, hire Chinese citizens to do auxiliary work. Organizations providing services to foreign nationals are designated by the Foreign Ministry or the foreign affairs offices of the local people's governments entrusted by the Foreign Ministry."

In addition, relevant personnel must be officially accredited by the IOC to enter the closed loop. The local translators and reporting partners who are not accredited cannot enter the closed loop.

- Beijing 2022 reassured the IOC that it will act in accordance with the *Personal Information Protection Law of the People's Republic of China* and the Host City Contract. It will ensure that the accredited media's personal information is used only when necessary for the Beijing 2022 Games, as further explained in the relevant accreditation documentation.

We suggest that we arrange a call in the next few weeks to hear from you about further concerns you might have.

Best regards,  
Christian Klaue & Mark Adams

**Christian Klaue**  
**Director**  
Corporate Communications and Public Affairs Department

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**Email** [christian.klaue@olympic.org](mailto:christian.klaue@olympic.org)

International Olympic Committee  
Maison Olympique, 1007 Lausanne, Switzerland

## **Patricia Kranz**

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**From:** Patricia Kranz  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 30, 2021 11:37 AM  
**To:** Christian KLAUE; Mark ADAMS  
**Cc:** Karina MONOD; Bill Holstein  
**Subject:** Overseas Press Club of America letter

Dear Mr. Klaue and Mr. Adams,

Thank you for your latest response to the Overseas Press Club of America. At this time, given that you have made it clear the IOC will not be acting upon any of our recommendations about press freedom involving the Winter Olympics, we see no further need for conversation about China's treatment of journalists covering the Games.

We regret that you are unwilling to seriously consider these recommendations, which could preserve press freedom while allowing full coverage of the Winter Olympics. We regret that you are not able or not willing to stand up for press freedom at the Winter Olympics. We will inform our partner organizations.

Best,

Patricia Kranz

William J. Holstein



## Patricia Kranz

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**From:** Christian KLAUE <christian.klaue@olympic.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 1, 2021 11:57 AM  
**To:** Patricia Kranz; Mark ADAMS  
**Cc:** Karina MONOD; Bill Holstein; Christian KLAUE  
**Subject:** RE: Overseas Press Club of America letter

Dear Ms Kranz,  
Dear Mr Holstein,

We take note of your reply and at the same time very much regret that you are cutting off the dialogue, which we would have liked to maintain. We disagree with your statement that we are not supporting the free access of the media to the Games, and to the internet in the Olympic venues during the Games.

The IOC will continue working with the Beijing 2022 Organising Committee towards ensuring the freedom of the press within the remit of the Olympic Games.

Best regards,

Christian Klaue and Mark Adams

**Christian Klaue**  
**Director**  
Corporate Communications and Public Affairs Department

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**Mobil.** +41 (0)79 742 1845 and +49 (0)160 96 98 19 88

**Email** [christian.klaue@olympic.org](mailto:christian.klaue@olympic.org)

International Olympic Committee  
Maison Olympique, 1007 Lausanne, Switzerland

## Patricia Kranz

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**From:** Patricia Kranz  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 2, 2021 9:16 AM  
**To:** Christian KLAUE; Mark ADAMS  
**Cc:** Karina MONOD; Bill Holstein  
**Subject:** RE: Overseas Press Club of America letter

Dear Mr. Klaue and Mr. Adams:

Thank you for your most recent letter. It is good to hear that you want to maintain dialogue with the Overseas Press Club of America on the issue of assuring that journalists covering the 2022 Olympics and the Paralympic Winter Games in Beijing have free access to covering the Games. At this time we do not see evidence that our recommendations for this access have been seriously considered and are being implemented in the conditions for journalists that have been laid out.

We would like to know how you want to continue this dialogue and whether you are willing to consider our recommendations that would allow journalists to freely cover the games and have the access needed. Our goal -- along with the partner organizations that have signed on to our letters -- is to allow journalists to cover the Games without restrictions on what they write or broadcast, and for their local translators and reporting partners to also have reasonable access so they can do their jobs.

If you are willing to enter into a dialogue with us that includes serious consideration of our recommendations we would be happy to discuss this further with you. We want to ensure real press freedom for those covering the games, which requires real access and the ability to freely interview and ask questions without censorship.

Please let us know how you would like to proceed.

Best,

Patricia Kranz  
William J. Holstein

## Patricia Kranz

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**From:** Christian KLAUE <christian.klaue@olympic.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 2, 2021 10:59 AM  
**To:** Patricia Kranz; Mark ADAMS  
**Cc:** Karina MONOD; Bill Holstein  
**Subject:** RE: Overseas Press Club of America letter

Dear Ms Kranz,

Thank you for your feedback. As said, we are very open to have a conversation with you about the conditions for journalists coming to the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022, including the restrictions caused by the COVID 19 situation and the limits of the IOC.

Looking forward to your reply.

Best regards,  
Christian Klaue

**Christian Klaue**  
**Director**  
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International Olympic Committee  
Maison Olympique, 1007 Lausanne, Switzerland

## Patricia Kranz

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**From:** Patricia Kranz  
**Sent:** Monday, December 6, 2021 2:38 PM  
**To:** 'Christian KLAUE'; Mark ADAMS  
**Cc:** Karina MONOD; Bill Holstein  
**Subject:** Beijing Olympics  
**Attachments:** OPC Bulletin story re IOC.docx

Dear Mr. Klaue,

Thank you for your offer to continue communications. However, we don't see any progress with the dialogue thus far and, with all due respect, wonder what you hope to accomplish by continuing it.

In previous communications we requested that the IOC use the press freedom requirements in the Olympic Charter, the Host City Contract and your media accreditation process in a way that promotes Olympic values, including free and robust coverage of China. We requested that the IOC secure the following assurances from the Chinese government:

- That there be no surveillance and interference with international journalists and their Chinese sources.
- That international news organizations can hire local staff of their choosing.
- That international journalists will be able to interview without interference whoever agrees to be interviewed, without retaliation or arrest of these sources after the fact.
- That a hotline for media violations be established.
- That there be clear guidelines and processing times for journalist visa applications, and to extend journalist visas to online-only media organizations and freelance journalists.
- That China create a dedicated point of media contact in the Public Security Bureau.

None of these requests has been addressed. While we are willing to continue a dialogue, we wish to let you know that we are publishing an article in the OPC Bulletin on Tuesday, Dec. 7 about the lack of progress in our communications.

The text of the article is attached.

Sincerely,

Patricia Kranz  
OPC Executive Director

William J. Holstein  
Co-Chair, China Working Group

## Patricia Kranz

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**From:** Christian KLAUE <christian.klaue@olympic.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 9:39 AM  
**To:** Patricia Kranz; Mark ADAMS  
**Cc:** Karina MONOD; Bill Holstein  
**Subject:** RE: Beijing Olympics

Dear Ms Kranz,  
Dear Mr. Holstein,

Thank you for your reply. Please allow me to just correct some of your comments.

- Beijing 2022 confirmed that that personal information of stakeholders, including media personnel, will be managed in accordance with the Personal Information Protection Law of the People's Republic of China and the Host City Contract and only for the Games-related purposes that are explained in the relevant accreditation documentation.
- For the hiring of local translators or reporting partners, the Regulations of the People's Republic of China on News Coverage by Permanent Offices of Foreign Media Organizations and Foreign Journalists apply, Beijing 2022 confirmed to the IOC. The guidelines say: "The permanent office of a foreign media organization or a foreign journalist may, through organizations providing services to foreign nationals, hire Chinese citizens to do auxiliary work. Organizations providing services to foreign nationals are designated by the Foreign Ministry or the foreign affairs offices of the local people's governments entrusted by the Foreign Ministry." In addition, relevant personnel must be officially accredited by the IOC to enter the closed loop. The local translators and reporting partners who are not accredited cannot enter the closed loop.
- The closed loop system is needed in order to address the current pandemic situation around the globe and in China. The conditions have been communicated transparently to all journalists who will be at the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games Beijing 2022. They are summarised in the [Playbook](#) for Broadcasters, International Federations, Marketing Partners, Olympic and Paralympic Family, Press and Workforce. There are no restrictions to interview people within the closed loop, be it athletes or officials, provided they agree to the interview.
- A media hotline is in place since 2016. [Here](#).
- There are clear press accreditation guidelines for the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 in place. According to the Olympic Charter and Host City Contract, the Olympic Identity and Accreditation Card (OIAC) is delivered under the authority of the IOC, to eligible persons. It concretely acts as a visa to enter China (together with a passport or other official travel documents, the OIAC authorises entry into the host country of the Game and allows the cardholder to stay and perform his or her Olympic function for the duration of the Games, including up to one month before and one month after the Games). The following link outlines the process and timelines relating to press accreditation for Beijing 2022 which have been available on Olympics.com since 2020: [www.olympic.org/accred2022](http://www.olympic.org/accred2022)
- It is outside the IOC's remit to ask for a dedicated point of media contact in the Public Security Bureau for journalists.

We kindly ask you to include these answers from the IOC in your note to your members.

Sincerely,

Christian Klaue & Mark Adams

Christian Klaue