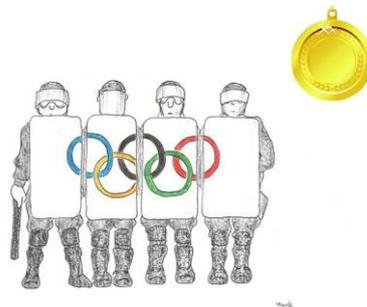


PRESS RELEASE

OPENING OF BAKU EUROPEAN GAMES: CARTOONS #DRAWATTENTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

At the occasion of the opening ceremony of the first European Games in Baku, Azerbaijan, the winners of the #DrawAttention contest, supported by the [Sport and Rights Alliance](#), are announced:

Gold:



Vicente Marques creative commons

Silver:



Ricardo Moll creative commons



Bronze:



Darwin Drijver creative commons



Anna Palangina creative commons

Public Choice Award:



More than [100 artworks](#) from 44 different countries in all continents were submitted. The drawings send out a strong message to sports organizations and governments to act in order to prevent violations of human rights, including child rights, happening around Mega Sporting Events.

The inaugural European Games in Baku are regulated by the European Olympic Committee, which has the responsibility for the assignment of the bid and implementation of the Olympic Charter. This could have been a chance to improve Azerbaijan's human rights record. Yet, the lack of engagement of the European Olympic Committee to stand up for human dignity and freedom of press has allowed the government to repress any kind of critical voice.



The effects on children are sometimes indirect, when their close environment is endangered, their lives are affected. The detention of parents makes children particularly vulnerable. Further, as reported by [Amnesty International](#), NIDA members have been beaten and tortured in order to extract false confessions, including the 17-year-old activist, Shahin Novruzlu, who lost four of his front teeth during interrogation.

Terre des Hommes asks the European Olympic Committee to act and take the interests of all children into consideration by urging Azerbaijani government to release the unjustly imprisoned journalists and activists.

ENDS

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

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Terre des Hommes launched the *Children Win* campaign in February 2014 to ensure that leading sports bodies mitigate risks and enhance opportunities of Mega Sporting Events on children, both direct and indirect. Terre des Hommes has commissioned and collected – articles and videos – featuring views and opinions of children linked to Mega Sporting Events: FIFA World Cup™ 2010 in South Africa and FIFA World Cup™ 2014 and Olympic Rio 2016 in Brazil. We encourage leaders of the sport bodies, industry, business, media, and the broad public to meet these children on www.childrenwin.org.