



*Official Allied Association of the
International Taekwon-Do Federation
US 501©(3) Non-Profit Organization*



OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF ITF AMERICA

The Officers and Members of the Board of Directors of ITF America, the Allied Association of the International Taekwon-Do Federation in the United States, declare our strong institutional position against the senseless and brutal invasion of the sovereign state of Ukraine, launched on February 24, 2022, by the Russian authorities.

The war has already claimed hundreds of lives of Ukrainian civilians and puts at risk the lives of millions of people. It threatens democratic ideals we stand for. As Taekwon-Do practitioners, it is our moral responsibility to categorically condemn such wanton aggression and attacks on innocent lives, in accordance with our oath to be champions of freedom and justice and to build a more peaceful world. Thus, we endorse any and all economic and political sanctions on the aggressor, and we demand cessation of hostilities and the withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukraine.

As an organization, we stand firmly in support of and solidarity with Ukraine and its people. We also express support to all those in Russia who express their rejection of the war, protesting despite the risk of imprisonment and persecution. Acknowledging that the war is bound to result in a massive refugee crisis, a meaningful way to contribute is to support charitable organizations that are providing emergency medical care and supplies, mental health counseling, and material aid. As a first step, ITF America is contributing \$1,000 to UNICEF's ongoing effort to deliver aid to hundreds of thousands of children and families. As a group, we will also embrace and welcome any ITF Taekwon-Do practitioner fleeing from the conflict who wants to join our organization in the United States.

Even though war in distant lands may be unimaginable, we, like many members of ITF America, have been deeply affected by the human suffering and destruction we have been witnessing, as well as by the uncertainties of what this war might mean for the global future. To our Ukrainian and Russian school owners, instructors, and students, and to all our members and their friends and families who are impacted by this conflict, ITF America is here to provide you support in this difficult time. Please know that our community stands with you. The Members of the Board are open to hearing from you and offer any counseling that you may require.

In solidarity, on behalf of the Officers and Members of the Board of Directors:

Grandmaster Ruben Suarez
Grandmaster Fabian Nunez, President
Master Vincent Affatigato, Vice President
Master Marcello Cancelliere
Master Don Kerner, Secretary General
Master Brian McNamara
Master Alvin Bernard
Master Becky Faaborg
Master Charles Foley
Mr. Edward Davila, Treasurer
Dr. Olga Shurchkov

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