

Military, Law Enforcement News, and More...

U.S. Sen. Marsha Blackburn asks, "Why would Iran be at the Olympics?" in Outkick Op/Ed



By Sen. Marsha Blackburn

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) wrote the following op-ed in OutKick questioning why Iran - a country plotting to assassinate President Donald Trump - is allowed to compete in the Olympic Games, which celebrate international unity, cooperation, and peace.

Should a country enjoy the honor of participating in the Olympic Games - long defined by its aspirations of fostering international unity, cooperation, and peace - while plotting the assassination of a former U.S. president?

As more than three dozen athletes carried the banner of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Friday during the Opening Ceremony of the Paris Summer Olympics, the

International Olympic Committee (IOC) made its answer clear: Absolutely.

While Iran's athletes have been practicing to compete in everything from archery and canoeing to weightlifting and wrestling, the authoritarian regime has been busy with a much more vile effort: conspiring to murder former President Donald Trump, a revelation from U.S. authorities that came just days after the failed assassination attempt on the president in Butler, Pennsylvania.

While deeply troubling, the Iranian plot, which the regime so far denies, should come as no surprise. For years, the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism has plotted assassinations against senior Trump administration officials, including former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and National Security Advisor John Bolton, resulting in federal charges against a member of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

IOC allows Iran to participate in Olympics

What is shocking, however, is that the IOC would allow Iran to participate in the Games. As the organizing body makes clear in its Olympic Charter, the goal of the Games is to "promote a peaceful society concerned with

"In fact, many of the regime's most high-profile victims are Iranian athletes. In 2020, the regime executed 27-year-old Navid Afkari after torturing the wrestler, who spoke out against the Islamic Republic, into confessing to the murder of an Iranian security guard. Two years later, Iranian agents arrested rock climber Marjan Jangjou, who remains missing, after the athlete allegedly participated in street protests."

the preservation of human dignity" and respect for "universal fundamental ethical principles."

Even assassination plots aside, there is no doubt that the ayatollahs in Tehran - whose regime systematically oppresses women and religious minorities and executes political dissidents - have struggled to uphold these principles.

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In 2020, the regime executed 27-year-old Navid Afkari after torturing the wrestler, who spoke out against the Islamic Republic,

into confessing to the murder of an Iranian security guard. Two years later, Iranian agents arrested rock climber Marjan Jangjou, who remains missing, after the athlete allegedly participated in street protests. And last year, Iran hanged karate champion Mohammad Mehdi Karami - who had the Olympic rings tattooed on his arm - after he allegedly participated in anti-regime demonstrations.

Tragically, Navid, Marjan, and Mohammad are among dozens of Iranian athletes who have faced persecution by the regime.

At the same time, Tehran has exported its violence across the region, attacking U.S. service members with drone strikes and organizing Hamas's barbaric Oct. 7 attack on Israel.

But when I pressed the IOC to exclude Iran from the Olympic Games over its blatant violation of the Olympic Charter, the committee refused, arguing in a letter that the National Olympic Committee of Iran - not the Iranian government - is bound by the charter and remains "in good standing with the IOC."

Noted: Authoritarian regimes can abuse, torture, and murder their citizens and athletes with impunity - just as long as their National Olympic Committee doesn't participate in these evil crimes.

The IOC also argued that barring

Iran from the Olympics would unfairly exclude Iranian athletes, who are not responsible for their government's actions, from peaceful competition.

Of course, the IOC knows this is untrue. Although the Olympic committee banned Russia from participating in the Paris Olympics over its devastating invasion of Ukraine, individual Russian athletes are still allowed to compete under a neutral flag and anthem. The same benefit could be extended to Iranian athletes, many of whom already compete in exile under alternative flags.

In fact, Iranian athletes make up nearly 40% of the Refugee Olympic Team, a larger share than any other country. Many others compete under the flags of their adopted countries - including Kimia Alizadeh, Iran's only female Olympic medalist, who is competing in Paris for Bulgaria.

When Kimia announced in 2020 that she fled Iran, the Olympian said that she was "one of the millions of oppressed women in Iran" and could no longer "sit at the table of hypocrisy, lies, injustice and flattery."

The International Olympic Committee would do well to follow Kimia's courageous example.

Commentator Morgan Pressel drops F-Word on Olympic golf game broadcast and it isn't 'Fore!'

By Jim Shepherd From the Outdoor Wire

Once known for launching bombs off the tee as an LPGA player, Morgan Pressel's getting lots of unwanted attention for another bomb she launched on the course. This time it was an "f-bomb" during her on-course commentary during Olympic ladies golf. Pressel says she "stumbled over her words" but it didn't appear she "stumbled" until after she realized what she'd already said. I'm no saint when it comes to using the "common vulgate" but

The monologues of comic geniuses like Richard Pryor, Sam Kinison and George Carlin all relied heavily on "colorful" speech. But even those famously raunchy funny men were capable of solid wordsmithing and communications when it was the better option.

I still believe more accurate descriptors still exist. Especially when writing...or commenting. However...I also believe that the users of the exclamation point (!) in professional writing should re-

ceive the death sentence. The positions may be contradictory, but I'm OK with contradictions, contractions, and dangling participles.

It's the constant dropping of the "f-bomb" that bothers me in the media.

The monologues of comic geniuses like Richard Pryor, Sam Kinison and George Carlin all relied heavily on "colorful" speech. But even those famously raunchy funny men were capable of solid wordsmithing and communications when it was the better option. Obscenity was used as a punctuation mark.

A half-century ago I was idealistic editor-in-chief of a small Kentucky daily newspaper. After

Opinion

hearing about a wheelchair-bound reader being unable to get into a popular restaurant, I dashed off an editorial that concluded with my feeling that "being unable to get into a restaurant because of a physical infirmity wasn't just wrong, it was a 'damned shame'."

The response was...unexpected. Where I absolutely expected outrage, readers agreed. They agreed it was a "damned shame"

people couldn't get into stores, restaurants and, yes, courthouses. As a result, local businesses responded by building ramps, lowering thresholds and accommodating people whose perspectives they'd simply not considered.

For those of you who can't imagine life before the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), it was perfectly acceptable to refer to those disabled as "crippled".

Vocabularies change with the times. But not always for the better. We'll keep you f...er, posted.

Wounded Heroes to host the Lee Greenwood Patriot Award Experience and Concert at Grand Ole Opry House Aug. 19

Celebrating Lee Greenwood's Decade of Service as the National Ambassador of Helping a Hero and Building Adapted Homes for Post 9-11 Veterans

NASHVILLE, Tenn., August 9, 2024 - Helping a Hero proudly announces The Lee Greenwood Patriot Award Experience and Concert, an unforgettable cele-

bration hosted by America's Wounded Heroes and honoring Lee Greenwood's unwavering support for our military and veterans. The Lee Greenwood Patriot Award Experience and Concert will take place Monday, August 19, at the iconic Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville, Tennessee.

Helping a Hero is a leading na-

tional organization dedicated to building adapted homes for wounded veterans. With a commitment to constructing homes across the country, Johnny Morris, Founder and CEO of Bass Pro Shops, launched the 100 Homes Challenge, pledging 25% of the cost of these homes. Last year, Johnny Morris and Lee Greenwood, joined by Mastercard, Capital One, Black Rifle

Coffee, Jack Links, Richard Childress Racing, and Toyota, surprised six wounded warriors at the Grand Ole Opry with the news that they would receive a Helping a Hero adapted home. "When I was surprised at the Opry by Johnny Morris, Lee Greenwood, and Capital One with the news that I would receive a home from Helping a

Hero, my entire world changed," shared CPL Frank Fields, USA (Ret). "As a double amputee in a wheelchair, this home represents a new beginning for me and my family. I can't wait to see the heroes who will be surprised this year, thinking they're just attending a great concert with Lee Greenwood."

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Tap to go to Link to documentary on Black soldiers in WWII

See link above of ComTel Production on WWII Black Soldiers on YouTube

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