National Weightlifting Federation of Georgia

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Vice President

David Kipshidze

Dear all.

In this letter I will address and provide facts, shared by Lasha Talakhadze, in connection with false allegations by German journalists found in recently aired documentary by Hajo Seppelt.

Before I present simple, easily obtainable facts, I want to underline my deepest respect to the profession of journalism. Good journalism fills gaps with facts, providing better understanding of the reality. Unfortunately, Herr Hajo Seppelt took a liberty to ignore facts and state something outrageous: Lasha Talakhadze has never being tested out of the competitions before the Rio Olympics. This false statement, enhanced with visual dramatism in the latenight show is nothing but blatant manipulation.

Let me present simple facts and explanations. I am vice-president of the National Weightlifting federation of Georgia and 2019 EWF Senior Weightlifting Championships /Batumi/ organizing committee director. I had a pleasure of issuing, in person, the accreditation cards for the German journalists headed by Frau Grit Hartmann. I do recall the day when this lovely lady walked into the accreditation room for the actual accreditation that was issued on time along with my personal welcome presenting any help for any matters — should the journalist ask for any adequate information, she/he would receive it right away. Frau Grit Harmann had another comfortable chance to request an important information back in Pattaya, where we did meet during the Worlds. For the reasons unknow to me - no German journalist has ever approached Lasha Talakhadze or anyone at the National Weightlifting Federation of Georgia for the relative information. This leaves me in wonder if manipulation was the ultimate goal for the entire show.

Lasha Talakhadze provides ADAMS log information (below) that could serve as a simple and effective resource for any diligent researcher. Underlined dates are those for the "out of the competition" samples collection in the period of 2015-2016: when ARD stated Lasah Talakhadze was not tested at all in training.

"I hope this sample log file provides enough to learn how vigorous is the testing modality nowadays. I want to wish all the best to all of my sport mates on their way to Tokyo 2020".

Lasha Talakhadze.



I still have hope that Herr Hajo Seppelt will find a courage to revisit his allegations for a sake of truth and ethical principles. National Weightlifting Federation of Georgia is ready to cooperate with any interested parties.

David Kipshidze

Vice President

National Weightlifting Federation of Georgia

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