1968: Olympic Games 1968 with Tommie Smith and John Carlos

What: Olympic games, black panther movement and human rights fight

Who: Tommie Smith and John Carlos.

When: 1968 During the Olympic medal ceremony after the 200 meter race

Where: Mexico city

Consequences:

Career ruined for having done the black panther sign throughout the ceremony. The black panther sign represents the fight against discrimination of the black population.

What were the times:

US athlete Tommie Smith won the 200 meter race with a world-record time of 19.83 seconds.

The Australian Peter Norman finished second with a time of 20.06 seconds. The American, John Carlos finished in third place with a time of 20.10 seconds

What means did they use to show their protest:

By raising their fist throughout the ceremony and having gone shoeless to receive their medal, they were in black socks. The symbol of the socks was the represent black poverty. And Smith wore a black scarf to represent black pride. Carlos also had his tracksuit unzipped to show the solidarity he had with all the blue-collar workers[[1]](#footnote-1).

Why where you badly perceived if you did that sign?

At that time there was a lot of racism, and to fight for black rights, a lot of people died for this cause. You are going against the current politics the time.

Tommie Smith, better known as « Tommie Jet », was an American athlete born in 1944, in Texas and is still today the best athlete for the 200 (m) and 400(m) discipline. He marked the Olympic Games history in protesting with his victory with his alias John Carlos in 1945 John. Carlos did the same thing in 1986 while he was in Mexico. He is a New yorker born athlete who won the bronze medal the same year Tommie jet won the gold one. These two men with their prize in held their arms, aimed to fight against discrimination towards black people in their own country. 58 years later, Obama, invites them to the White House. The other person on the podium was the Australian athlete, Peter Norman, born in 1942 in Coburg and died in 2006 in Melbourne. While the Olympic Games in 1986, he help the two other athletes in their fight against antisemitism, earning a badge against the segregation and offering them the possibility to be part of the black glove symbol when they raised their fists in front of the whole world at the Olympic games.

1. A blue-collar worker is a working-class person who performs manual labour. Blue-collar work may involve skilled or unskilled labour. The type of work may involve manufacturing, warehousing, mining, excavation, electricity generation and power plant operations, custodial work, farming, commercial fishing, logging, landscaping, pest control, food processing, oil field work, waste collection and disposal, recycling, construction, maintenance, shipping, driving, trucking and many other types of physical work. Blue-collar work often involves something being physically built or maintained.  
   from : <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue-collar_worker> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)