Dear Members of the International Olympic Committee,

My name is Kevin Baron. I am a twenty-two-year-old American from the suburbs of Seattle, Washington. As a child, by participating in various sports during the school year, attending multi-sports camps in the summertime, and especially by viewing the Summer and Winter Olympic Games on television as often as possible, I was deeply inspired by the uniting powers of sportsmanship and friendly competition.

Through the years, I have held on to my dream of one day becoming an Olympian to compete in the sport at which I chose to excel beyond all of my other sports, the sport whose fans call it the world’s game: soccer.

However, at a young age I began to realize, and as I grew into adulthood I understood with increasing conviction, that I, for multitudinous reasons, political and otherwise, do not wish to stand on the international stage to represent my native country, the United States of America. Even as the recent rise of my once childhood competitor, now U.S. international striker, Jordan Morris, has spurred my desire to play at the highest level, my beliefs entirely prevent me from wanting to join him and other on the American squad.

From the same young age, I have wondered whether there were others like me, from here in the United States or from anywhere else, who aspired to the Olympic standard, yet who felt restrained by certain fetters of nationality. Research showed me that, indeed, your committee has been historically graceful enough to allow and encourage such athletes to compete. Profound joy and awe filled me, as well as much of the rest of the world, as at the 2012 London Games, we witnessed South Sudanese Guor Marial run under the Olympic flag to honor those of his family whom he had lost in the Sudanese civil war. We rejoiced together again in seeing ten International Olympic Athletes and Refugee Olympic Team members play in the 2016 Games of Rio de Janeiro, and Kuwaiti shooter Fehaid Al-Deehani’s gold medal performance further inspired us to dream of what else might be possible for such athletes.

Now, Tokyo’s 2020 Games are drawing near and the world refugee crisis addressed in Rio seems as though it may have been just a beginning. Combining the aforementioned precedents with the full force of my personal motivations, I humbly inquire unto the one hundred thirty-first session of the International Olympic Committee convening in Lima, Peru, as to any and all logistical requirements necessary to the formation of a (for the present lack of official terminology) Refugee/Independent Olympic Team to qualify for competition in either or both of the men’s and women’s football tournaments in the Games of the XXXII Olympiad.

I do understand that such an event requires meticulous and early planning, and that for this reason, my inquiry may already be too late to act upon. Even so, it is my deepest and sincerest hope that the timing of this letter’s reception by such a momentous gathering might provide it the necessary momentum to bring to fruition the vision of a team of diverse individuals assembling peaceably in order to achieve a common goal, which may be just the sort of symbol or world now needs most.

Thank you all so very much for any amount of consideration. I eagerly await a response upon the conclusion of the session, whatever it may be.

Kevin Baron