

**International Olympic Committee**

Château de Vidy, route de Vidy 9, 1007 Lausanne

**Organizing Committee of the Olympic Summergames and the Paralympics 2012**

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Zurich, April 11, 2012

**Open Letter**

**regarding Dow Chemical at the Olympic and Paralympic Games in London**

With great consternation we take notice of the fact that Dow Chemical is one of the major sponsors of the Summer Olympic Games and the Paralympics 2012, and that the olympic stadium will be surrounded by huge panels of this company.

Dow Chemical is not just any company; Dow Chemical caused death, desolation and unspeakable sorrow to millions of people - a behavior that is in clear contradiction to the olympic philosophy.

Dow Chemical is one of the producers of the defoliant Agent Orange which was sprayed in the unbelievable quantity of 80 million liters across the south of Vietnam as well as parts of Laos and Cambodia. This quantity contained some 400 kg of Dioxin. Studies by research teams led by Professor Jeanne Stellman of Columbia University substantiate that 4,8 million people were sprayed with this toxic substance. Three million of these suffered serious consequences such as cancer or congenital defects. Even today, in the third generation, children with congenital defects are born. Also the damages caused to the environment are gigantic.

Dow Chemical was also producer of napalm. The creeping fire barrage of the incendiary bombs filled with napalm brought devastation, death and horrible burn injuries. Many of us still remember such pictures with dismay.

The company Union Carbide who had caused the enormous chemical disaster of 1984 in Bhopal, was bought by Dow Chemical and since 2001 is a subsidiary of this corporation.

Dow Chemical stubbornly refuses to assume responsibility. Neither the victims of war nor those of the chemical disaster ever received any form of compensation from the corporation. Nothing was done to decontaminate the poisoned land.

Millions of people around the globe are appalled by the callousness of Dow Chemical and their ilk. They demand justice for the victims now. The undersigned organizations demand the same.

At the same time we expect from the torchbearers of the olympic ideal consideration and compassion for the victims. We invite you to join all those who are committed to the justified requests of the victims. This would also mean not to offer Dow Chemical an advertising platform as long as this company refuses to make concessions to the victims.

Expressing our concern we remain

Yours sincerely,

Swiss-Vietnam Association

Anjuska Weil  
President

#### Supporting organizations

Association des Vietnamiens en Suisse  
Declaration of Bern  
Den Kindern eine Chance geben. – Hueskes Orthopaedy  
Freundinnen und Freunde der Neuen Wege  
medico international schweiz, former Centrale Sanitaire Switzerland  
MultiWatch  
Religiös-Sozialistische Vereinigung der Deutschschweiz  
Swiss Women's Union for Peace and Progress  
Swiss Peace Movement  
Swiss Peace Council  
terre des hommes switzerland  
Women for Peace Switzerland  
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Switzerland

#### Copies for information:

- Dow Chemical Switzerland, USA, Vietnam
- Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange
- Vietnam Olympic Committee
- Vietnam Peace and Development Foundation
- Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations