



Subject: Security Planning of 23rd Summer Deaflympics, Samsun 2017

24.10.2016

Dear Jack Lamberton,
President of USA Deaf Sports Federation,

First of all, we would like to thank you for your detailed e-mail, and making a great effort to attend the Deaflympics 2017. We really understand your concerns, and would like to give some information in order to clarify the following issues. I would like you to know that during the World Championships which were held after the events of 15th July, participants haven't experienced any security problem and no terrorist incident happened as the ICSD Executive Board observed during their visits for 5 times in Turkey. We would like to point out that ICSD President, Dr. Valery Rukhledev's speech where he mentioned how safe Samsun is and invited all the accredited countries to participate in the Deaflympics 2017 during the World Championships and "365 Days Countdown Ceremony" which were held after the events of 15th July is one of our references. Please find answers of your questions below:

- 1. is it true that there will be an addition of 3,500 security personnel (e.g. soldiers) to the 2017 Deaflympics area to help with security? If so, where? Venues? Olympic Village? what about hotels?**

Enhanced security on a 24/7 basis (24 hours a day and everyday)?

What other security measures you are also taking to ensure security for all your participants and tourists at the Deaflympics?

The security planning involves the Deaflympic Village, 'guest, media and VIP hotels', general transportation routes and buses. In all of these places, there will be police officers and private security guards. In addition, these places will also be protected by security cameras and city surveillance cameras 24-hours a day. Regarding the number of security personnel, Samsun Police Department is the highest competent authority which will make the final plan about this matter.

For example, in each sport venue during the World Championships in July 2016, there were 25 police officers and 10 private security guards. Both detector and x-ray devices were used at the venue entrances. In addition, these venues were also monitored by security cameras 24 hours a day (same amount of security staff were assigned to each sport venue).

In general areas, dining hall, entrances and exits of Deaflympics Village as well as entrances of each block, 24-hours security was provided by polices officers and private security guards who worked **3 shifts a day**. Both general areas and blocks were monitored by security cameras 24 hours a day.

Security of routes which were used during the Championships were under the control of Samsun Police Department. As a result, the World Championships and 365 Days Countdown Ceremony have been successfully performed without any problem or security gap. There is no doubt that during the Summer Deaflympics 2017, we will improve the security that we have provided. In addition, there will be an Electronic Accreditation Control System which is one of the advanced technologic methods in order to make the entrances/exits of the village and venues safer for athletes and officials. We will be happy to share the security study of our security department and Samsun Police Department with you as soon as it is finalized.

2. What about the airports in Istanbul, Ankara and Samsun? Security plan for these airports

There will be designated areas for participants of 2017 Deaflympics in order to access fast tracks at the airports. By exchanging necessary letters with the Turkish Ministry of Internal Affairs and Local Authority of Airport about this matter, the participants will be allowed to use the airports as fast as possible. Security measures have already been improved at the airports of Ankara and İstanbul, and the security level for Samsun Airport will also be increased at entrances and exits of the airport through the Police Department. In addition, there will be OC staff to assist and guide the guests before and after the passport check as well as at the luggage claim areas. We will make airport operations safer as much as possible by making plans in cooperation with the department of Turkish Airlines Ground Services.

3. It would not be a surprise if deaf members (or even hearing members) of ISIS are targeting the Deaflympics for further terrorist activity? What is being done to prevent ISIS from targeting Samsun and Deaflympics? See <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2985804/Now-Isis-using-SIGN-LANGUAGE-try-recruit-jihadis-New-video-shows-two-deaf-mute-militants-calling-Muslims-join-saying-disability-no-excuse.html>

We would like you to know that as Republic of Turkey, all units of our government work sensitively against all threads. We will also host the European Youth Olympic Festival (EYOF 2017) in Erzurum in February 2017, which is another multi-disciplinary sport organization that Turkey also hosts. As Turkey which is one of the most experienced countries about holding international organization, we give a particular importance to the safety and satisfaction of participants. Therefore, there is no doubt that our security plans will be implemented by avoiding any bad surprises. Currently security officers sensitively perform their tasks at the security check points located at the entry and exit points of the city. Same security measures will also be taken during the organisational period.

Samsun which is located at the region of Black Sea is more than 1000 km away from the borders of Syria and Iraq, because of its location. Until today, there has never been any terrorist incident or etc. in Samsun.

Our preparations for the Deaflympics 2017 are continuing in a serious spirit without any problem. We will also share a promotional video of Samsun with you to take as a reference, and share with your officials of your country. Upon your request, we would be happy to arrange a meeting with Mr. İbrahim ŞAHİN, Governor of Samsun, and enable you to get a detailed information. We are greatly honoured and pleased to welcome you in Samsun firstly during the second Chef de Mission Seminar and Team Draw for Team Sport in March 2017, and then during the 23rd Summer Deaflympics.



Serkan BALTACI
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