



## INTERNATIONAL TAEKWON-DO FEDERATION (ITF)

### Reply to Vienna / 2

#### **Fatti, non slogan – Hechos, no eslóganes – Facts, not slogans.**

“Facts, not slogans” — Fatti, non slogan — was the title chosen by Giuseppe Lanotte, who presents himself as a lawyer and, in this case, as the legal spokesperson specialized in trademarks for ITF Vienna.

It is striking — though not surprising — that the response did not come from Ri Yong Son, the direct person responsible for the political actions currently causing controversy and concern within the worldwide ITF Taekwon-Do community.

In his reply, Lanotte cites an Austrian court ruling from 2011 as “proof of international legitimacy” to justify the registration of “ITF” and its logos as their proprietary trademarks, claiming they represent the “original organization.” That interpretation is not only incorrect — it is a legal absurdity: false, misleading, and invalid under any serious analysis of trademark, patent, or intellectual property law.

What he conveniently fails to mention is that, following that case, two agreements were signed — one of them on June 11, 2014, in Vienna, Austria — establishing that neither party would initiate new legal actions against the other, nor engage in public defamation or attacks, while also obligating their present and future members to respect those same commitments replay  
(The details of the second agreement I will reserve for now.)

The 2011 judgment of the Higher Regional Court of Vienna (Oberlandesgericht Wien, Case No. 15 R 41/11a) addressed solely an internal conflict within the association ITF registered in Austria.

It is not a global patent. It does not grant worldwide exclusivity. It has no authority beyond the jurisdiction of Austria, nor does it confer ownership of a cultural legacy that has existed for more than 60 years as an open and universal practice. Attempting to transform a local Austrian decision into a global deed of ownership over the ITF Taekwon-Do name is a historical and legal manipulation that cannot be accepted.



## INTERNATIONAL TAEKWON-DO FEDERATION (ITF)

Taekwon-Do does not belong to any government or commercial registry. It is an intangible cultural heritage of humanity, universal in scope, born from the technical, spiritual, and philosophical legacy of General Choi Hong Hi, who made this truth explicit throughout his life and work.

ITF Vienna — as a representative of North Korean policies — knows perfectly well where this path leads. Lanotte's response is nothing more than an attempt at pressure, cloaked in legal threats about "the weight of the law," while hiding a blatant attempt to wrongfully appropriate a cultural legacy that belongs to all of us: the true ITF Taekwon-Do.

To use the Austrian legal framework and the structure of "ITF Vienna" as instruments to advance the political agenda of the North Korean regime — a State internationally condemned for human rights violations, censorship, ideological persecution, and the development of nuclear weapons programs — is a contradiction in absolute opposition to the authentic moral values of the ITF Taekwon-Do.

Nothing in such behavior could be further from the principles, ethics, and moral culture envisioned by its founder.

Those who collaborate with the policies of the Vienna-based ITF must reflect seriously.

By doing so, even indirectly, they are supporting North Korea's programs — and that, in essence, means collaborating with a regime internationally accused of terrorism and human-rights abuses.

Now more than ever, we must defend the rights that protect us. The name and the logos that are the subject of this discussion form part of a cultural legacy that entered public and universal use more than six decades ago.

The Choi family, as the legitimate cultural heirs, have never made any claim restricting that use — on the contrary, they have always upheld its free and universal character.

Defending this truth is not merely an institutional duty — it is a moral obligation for all Masters, Instructors, and Practitioners to preserve the cultural integrity and identity of ITF Taekwon-Do, as we have done throughout its history.



## INTERNATIONAL TAEKWON-DO FEDERATION (ITF)

The true ITF Taekwon-Do is not imposed through lies, threats, coercion, or unlawful practices typical of totalitarian regimes.

The authentic Taekwon-Do is honored through its practice, teaching, principles, and values — through truth and an indomitable spirit that stands ready to confront and resist every form of injustice.

**Fatti, non slogan = Ne ho di più**

**Hechos, no eslóganes = tengo más**

**Facts, not slogans = I have more**

GM Choi Nestor Galarraga