



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

Executive Office of the President

Ms Francine Prose
President
PEN American Center

Mr Larry Siems
Director, Freedom to Write and
International Programs
PEN American Center

Lausanne, 24 June 2008
Ref. 10492/2008/bje
Sent only by fax: + 1 212 334 2181

18 June Letter to President Rogge

Dear Ms Prose and Mr Siems,

Thank for your letter of 18 June expressing concern about the Olympic torch relay. As you know, the Olympic torch has passed through Tibet without incident. Before its passage, the International Olympic Committee repeatedly urged Chinese authorities to permit international media access to the Lhasa leg of the torch relay. The BBC, NBC, AP, Reuters and other news organizations from the United Kingdom, Japan, Spain, Mexico, Brazil were in Lhasa for the event.

However, they were not allowed to follow the entire torch route. This restriction came as a surprise to us, and the IOC has voiced its displeasure, both privately and publicly. I can assure you that we will continue to push for media access to Olympic events.

I am well aware that your concerns about Tibet go far beyond issues related to the torch. Issues involving relations between Tibet and China are outside the jurisdiction and the expertise of the IOC, which is a first and foremost a sports organisation.

Sincerely,

Christophe De Kepper
Chief of Staff
International Olympic Committee