



Women Leaders of Tomorrow's Report for World Judo Day October 28, 2021

Women Leaders of Tomorrow raised funds to support the sport of Judo in Afghanistan and national team. This was made possible through the generation donation of WLOT supporters in Canada. The funds were sent to WLOT's bank account in Canada, and transferred using Western Union onwards to Afghanistan's head coach Farhad Hazrati, who is also a member of WLOT. The amount was sent to him in Uzbekistan, he used the same service to send it to the head of the Judo coach Rustom in Baghlan province. Mr. Rustom is also the representative of the Afghan Judo federation in Baghlan.

In the present situation with an international embargo on transactions with the Taliban-run central bank, and near shutdown of the Afghan banking and financial sector, the process of transferring donated funds into Afghanistan is much more difficult than prior to the Taliban capture of the country.

WLOT has been involved in empowering the Afghan women's Judo team since 2018. We have assisted our two prominent Judo athletes to receive professional Judo training at Tokai University in Japan in January of 2020. WLOT also collaborated and raised funds for Parwin Askari to be able to compete at the Judo Grand Slam in Tashkent Uzbekistan in March 2021. In addition to that, WLOT assisted Nigara Shaheen to be included in the IOC's refugee team, and she successfully competed at the Tokyo 2020.

The purpose of this particular Judo celebration was to save the legacy and the value of Judo sport in Afghanistan. WLOT's mandate is to empower Afghanistan women's Judo team, but due to the extreme Taliban's restrictions on women's sports, it was impossible to include female athletes in this event.

When the Taliban took over the central government in middle of August 2021, they released a decree on September 9th banning women from participating in any sports. The Taliban's return has also caused a mass exodus of people. Many Afghan citizens began fleeing the country at the earliest opportunity. The massive departures of Afghan people included hundreds of athletes. The Afghan athletes immigrated to many different countries, primarily to United States Canada, and Australia.

In recognition of World Judo Day 2021, October 28th, the head of the Baghlan province Judo association, Mr. Rustom, has organized a friendly Judo tournament locally. A number of young boys, adolescents and adults have participated in the competition. After the competition, he rewarded a number of young and adult Judokas higher belts and certificates. All of the certificates were approved by International Judo Federation, with the international IJF logo on them.

The funds raised and sent to the Baghlan Judo association, covered the cost of the logistics, such as printing the banner, certificates, and providing lunch.

Women Leaders of Tomorrow participated as a supporter of this event to keep alive the culture of sports, in particular Judo in the county.

WLOT is grateful to the Afghan Judo Federation for their full cooperation to make this day possible.

Sincerely,

Friba Rezayee

Executive Director