1. Arian Gholami (FIN: 12513342) in Rilton Cup 2019

On the 5^{th} of January 2019, Aryan Gholami refused to play against Ariel Erenberg from Israel at the Rilton Cup in Sweden.





In the left picture Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei congratulates chess player Aryan Gholami for refusing to play against Israel. The caricature on the right concerns the protest of Iranian human right activists to make chess political.



Officials of the Iran Chess Federation and Sport Ministry honoured him in different ceremonies. They publicly announced in the media that he refused to play due to political reasons and introduced Arian as a national hero.



The Chief Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) extraterritorial arm (Qods Force), Brigadier General Qasasem Soleimani gives his ring to Aryan Gholami for refusing to play against Israel..

2. Alireza Firouzja (12573981) In Grenke Open 2019

In the Grenke Open 2019, the Iranian prodigy Alireza Firouzja forfeited his third-round game as his opponent was an Israeli national: FM Or Bronstein. Iranian media reported that it was a political move.



https://www.isna.ir/news/98013113526/

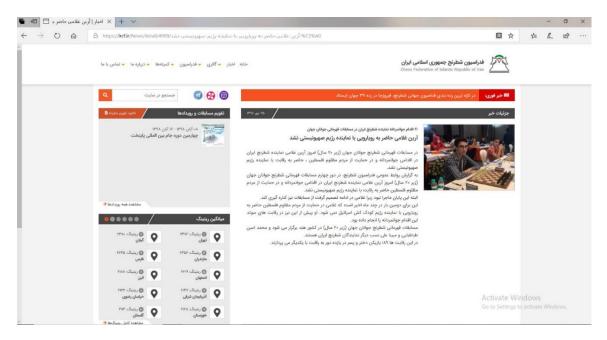
3. Arian Gholami (FIN: 12513342) in World Junior 2019

In the World Junior 2019, in Chennai, Arian Gholami refused to play against his Israeli opponent Alexander Zlatin in round 4, claiming to the Chief Arbiter that he was ill while failing show up to be checked by the official tournament doctor.

Read more at:

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/71667874.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_mediu m=text&utm_campaign=cppst

The Iran Chess Federation officially announced on its website that he deliberately refused to play against the Israeli opponent.



Later, due to private complaint from FIDE, Iran Chess Federation purged this report from the website, but continued to advertise it on other official Farsi websites.

4. M. Amin Tabatabaei (FIN: 12521213) in World Junior 2019

In the World Junior 2019 in Chennai, Amin Tabatabaei failed to turn up for his sixth round clash on board 11 against his Israeli opponent, like Arian he submitted a medical certificate, but refused to be checked by the tournament doctor, and Iranian media and also Indian media announced that it was a political move:

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/chess/iran-israel-politics-plays-out-at-world-junior-chess/articleshow/71667874.cms



All reports in Iranian media indicates that it was a political move. Above is a screenshot from IRNA (The Islamic Republic News Agency www.irna.ir/news/83522894) where it is written that Amin refused to play against an opponent from the "Zionist" regime.

The Iran Chess Federation also announced on its website that Tabatabaei refused to play against a player from the "Zionist regime".

https://www.ircf.ir/News/detail/4914/%D8%AA%D8%AF%D8%A7%D9%88%D9%85-

%D8%B5%D8%AF%D8%B1%D9%86%D8%B4%DB%8C%D9%86%DB%8C-%D8%B9%D9%84%DB%8C-

%D9%86%D8%B3%D8%A8-%D8%AF%D8%B1-

%D9%85%D8%B3%D8%A7%D8%A8%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%AA-

%D9%82%D9%87%D8%B1%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%86%DB%8C-

%D8%B4%D8%B7%D8%B1%D9%86%D8%AC-%D8%AC%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%86%D8%A7%D9%86-

%D8%AC%D9%87%D8%A7%D9%86

5. Withdrawal from World Youth Chess Olympiad

Only 2 days before the start of the event, the Iranian Chess Federation decided to withdraw from the event, after receiving a warning from FIDE regarding forfeiture against Israel.



https://www.isna.ir/news/98080502474/

The president of Iranian Chess Federation, Mehrdad Pahlevanzadeh, in his interview with ISNA News Agency implies that they withdraw from event because of Israeli Team.

6. Mobina Alinasab (12528897) Elllobregat Open 2019

Mobina Alinasab was forced to not play against an Israeli player due to political pressure in the 2019 Elllobregat Open Chess Group A in Spain. According to Tasnim News Agency the officials honoured her in a ceremony.



https://tn.ai/2166415



7. Parham Maghsoodloo (12539929) and Amin Tabatabaei (FIN: 12521213)

In the sixth edition of the Sunway Sitges chess festival in Spain, Amin Tabatabaei (FIN:12521213) and Parham Maghsoodloo, (FIN (12539929) played against Israeli players in the Night Blitz without checking their opponent's nationality. This caused huge problems for them. Even before

returning to Iran, they were forced to apologise. Parham, in order to protect himself, was forced to criticize the Israeli government.



https://www.nasimonline.ir/Content/Detail/2342461/%D9%85%D9%82%D8%B5%D9%88%D8%AF%D9%84%D9%88-%D8%B1%DA%98%DB%8C%D9%85-

%D8%B5%D9%87%DB%8C%D9%88%D9%86%DB%8C%D8%B3%D8%AA%DB%8C-

%D8%B3%D8%AA%D9%85%DA%AF%D8%B1-%D9%88-%D8%A2%D9%84%D9%88%D8%AF%D9%87-

%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D8%B2-%D9%85%D9%84%DB%8C%D8%AA-

%D8%AD%D8%B1%DB%8C%D9%81%D9%85-%D8%A7%D8%B7%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%B9%DB%8C-

%D9%86%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%B4%D8%AA%D9%85

They had no idea that their opponents were from Israel (Because it was an overnight blitz where results were not being uploaded on the chess-results website during the event).



The President of the chess Federation also announced to the media that it was an accident and Iranians will never play against Israeli opponents again. (Mehr News Agency)

mehrnews.com/xQPVj

8. Iran's Parliament

After Parham and Amin played against Israeli players (See. 6), Iran's Parliament wrote to the Sport Minister. See document below:



Photo: Iran's parliament officially warned the sport Minister about chess players who played against Israelis. https://www.tarafdari.com/node/1492772

However, apologising publicly by the players was not the end of the story and as a consequence, the Sport Ministry and the Iran Chess Federation decided to cancel male players' participation in the World Rapid and Blitz 2019. This was a totally unacceptable decision for Alireza Firouzja.

9. Alireza Firouzja (12573981) Participation in the World Rapid and Blitz

When the Iranian Chess Federation cancelled the participation of its male players to the World Rapid and Blitz 2019, in order to prevent Iran-Israel pairings, Alireza realised that the only way he could fulfill his enormous talent, was to play under the FIDE flag.

Had the Iranian Chess Federation not broken the FIDE Charter yet again, this move would not have been necessary.

In an interview with Tasnim News Agency, the president of Iran Chess Federation, accounted that it was a political decision and players didn't play in the World Rapid and Blitz in order to avoid facing Israeli players. He also announced that due to this matter, Firouzja changed his flag.



Pahlevanzadeh also announced that Forbidden pairing is going back to FIDE again

https://tn.ai/2192735

10. Iraj Sabah (12503096)

In the 2019 FIDE World Senior Chess tournament in Romania, Iraj Sabah was paired against Eran Wolf from Israel in round 2. Due to the inevitable political coercion, he had no option other than to withdraw from the event. Iranian official media reported that it was a political decision.



https://www.isna.ir/news/98082315297/

11. Sarasadat Khademalsharieh (12512214) In World Rapid and Blitz 2019

After complaining against Iranian policy regarding Israel in an interview with ChessBase India, https://twitter.com/nigelshortchess/status/1210285725465354244?lang=en the former World Rapid and Blitz silver medallist faced serious problems in Iran. She was stopped at the airport and denied the opportunity of participating in the Gibraltar Open 2020 and also the FIDE Grand Prix.

12. Pouya Idani (12503096) 2020

In January 2020, Pouya Idani played in the Gibraltar Masters Chess Festival and due to political reasons he had to refuse to play against an Israeli opponent. Iranian official media reported that it was a political decision. https://tn.ai/2187833

13. Iran's Guardian Council Rejects National Olympic Committee's Charter 2020

The Guardian Council rejected the proposed charter of the National Olympic Committee of the Islamic Republic of Iran (N.O.C.I.R. IRAN) and sent it back to the government for revisions, the Spokesman for the Guardian Council, Abbasali Kadkhodaei has said.

Mr. Kadkhodaei made the comments at a July 11 press conference in Tehran, during which he released the Guardian Council's ruling on the N.O.C.I.R. Iran's proposed charter.

The Guardian Council found 14 issues with the draft proposal of the charter, three of which it said violated the Iranian Constitution and religious principles, the semi-official Fars news agency reported.

The council's principal objection was to those articles in the charter that protected the N.O.C.I.R. Iran against political, social, and religious pressures and rejected gender discrimination.

In its decision, the Guardian Council urged the government to remove Article 16 of the charter which opposes "political, legal, religious, economic pressures and rejects gender discrimination." The council said the article "violated religious principles and Articles 4, 12 and 13 of the constitution."

http://fna.ir/eybi3