

Managua, Nicaragua May 14, 2025

**To the authorities of:**  
World Taekwondo (WT)

**From:**  
**Jessica del Socorro Barrios Zapata**  
National ID No. 401-270681-0004R  
Adult, single, Nicaraguan citizen

**Subject: Formal request for sanctions and urgent measures regarding a case of sexual abuse in the Nicaraguan Taekwondo Federation (FETANIC)**

Through this letter, I respectfully and urgently address you in my capacity as the mother and legal representative of a minor who was a victim of sexual abuse, to request the immediate intervention of World Taekwondo (WT) in light of the extremely serious events that have taken place within the Nicaraguan Taekwondo Federation (FETANIC).

My daughter—whose identity I withhold for legal and safety reasons—was sexually abused by **Mr. Mario Javier Zavala Rodríguez**, holder of Nicaraguan ID No. 081-12083-0003C, who served as a coach of the Nicaraguan National Taekwondo Team.

The complaint was formally submitted and accepted by the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic of Nicaragua, following a thorough review of scientific police reports, forensic psychological evaluations, and medical assessments, all of which confirmed the facts reported. Nonetheless, and despite the weight of the evidence, the aggressor continues to serve as a coach and remains in contact with minors.

Since the complaint was filed, both my daughter and our family have suffered harassment, intimidation, and threats, allegedly from individuals linked to the federation and others with influence within the institutional and governmental structure.

Even more troubling is the fact that the president of FETANIC, **Mr. Salvador Mario Zavala Jirón**, holder of Nicaraguan ID No. 001-020161-0066T and father of the accused, personally contacted me in an attempt to dissuade me from moving forward with the complaint. He acknowledged his son's misconduct and proposed as a "solution" that I simply transfer my daughter to another academy, assuring me she could still remain on the national team. This behavior constitutes a clear act of **institutional cover-up and indirect coercion**.

But the problem goes far beyond an isolated case. FETANIC currently exemplifies a **clear model of nepotism and institutional power concentrated within a single family**, as evidenced by the following individuals:

- **Mario Javier Zavala Rodríguez** (accused) – National Coach, ID No. 081-12083-0003C
- **Ericka Tatiana Valdivia Rodríguez** – Wife of Mario Zavala, current owner of the Koryo Academy where the abuse occurred, ID No. 001-010201-1008X

- **Nelson Alberto Zavala Ponce** – FETANIC Secretary and active member, ID No. 001-070892-0030S
- **Fresia Marcela Ruiz Machado** – Wife of Nelson, Sports Assistant, ID No. 001-240892-002T

All of them are direct relatives of **Mr. Salvador Zavala**, who appointed them to key positions within the federation. How can a mother like me report a case to a federation that protects the abuser and is entirely controlled by his immediate family?

We do not want this case to end up like the one in Costa Rica, where, despite WT sanctions, the president of the national federation continues to run the organization with impunity, disregarding the most basic ethical standards.

In this context—and in accordance with a recent phone conversation initiated by **Ms. María Borello**, a WT official—I hereby formalize this complaint and respectfully request the following:

1. The **immediate disqualification of Mr. Mario Zavala Rodríguez** from holding any technical, managerial, or athlete-related role within Taekwondo, at both national and international levels.
2. The **removal of Mr. Salvador Mario Zavala Jirón** from his position as president of FETANIC, due to **cover-up, abuse of power, and nepotism**, and for failing to guarantee the protection of minors within the federation's structure.
3. A thorough review of all family-based appointments within FETANIC and the enforcement of a complete institutional reorganization free of conflicts of interest and personal control.

These requests are based on the principle of the best interest of the child, enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and on the standards of integrity, fairness, and ethics in sport that World Taekwondo claims to uphold.

My daughter is confined to her home, living in fear. We are the victims, yet the abuser remains unpunished, still working with minors and protected by an institutionalized family structure.

I respectfully request a formal and urgent response to this letter, detailing the concrete actions that World Taekwondo will take to ensure this case does not go unpunished.

Without further comment, and hoping that Taekwondo does not fail another victim, I remain sincerely yours.

Jessica del Socorro Barrios Zapata  
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