

SZC NSW Hasbara Service

(This posting from MidEastTruth)

ATHENS 2004: Israel doesn't have a capital city

According to the [official website of the ATHENS 2004 Olympic and Paralympic Games](#), Israel doesn't have a capital city.

It all began last Sunday (Feb. 29, 2004).

Someone decided that Jerusalem is the capital city of both Israel and "Palestine".

Palestine (PLE)  

Medals of Sydney 2000 Olympic Games:

General Information:

Continent:	Asia
Official Name:	Palestine
Capital:	Jerusalem
Area:	Gaza Strip: 360 sq km West Bank: 5,860 sq km
Population:	Gaza Strip: 1,200,000 West Bank: 2,300,000
Currency:	Jordan denarius

(from the official website of the ATHENS 2004 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Feb. 29, 2004).

Obviously, a country that doesn't exist can't have a capital city, and many people protested the mistake.

The protest continued for two days, after which someone at the site decided to remove Jerusalem from being listed as the capital of "Palestine".

However, they also removed Jerusalem from being the capital of Israel, replacing it with Tel-Aviv. Yes, you got it right. They simply decided that Tel-Aviv is Israel's capital.

Israel (ISR)



Medals of Sydney 2000 bronze
Olympic Games: 1

General Information:

Continent: Europe
Official Name: State of Israel
Capital: Tel-Aviv
Area: 20,770 sq km
Population: 6,116,533
Currency: New Israeli Shekel (ILS)
Languages: Hebrew (official), Arabic, English
Government: Parliamentary democracy
Official website: <http://www.info.gov.il/eng/mainpage.asp>

(from the official website of the ATHENS 2004 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Mar. 2, 2004).

As can be expected, this move by the Olympic Games' website was followed by more protest, explaining to the website's operators that Tel-Aviv is not Israel's capital city.

Again, the protest continued for two days, after which someone at the site decided that Israel will have no capital city.

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(from the official website of the ATHENS 2004 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Mar. 4, 2004).

As you will notice, the Olympic organizers listed Israel's languages as follows: "Hebrew (official), Arabic, English." As a matter of fact, in addition to Hebrew, Arabic is also an official language of Israel.

In a new twist, today (March 5, 2004), the site's operators decided to remove Arabic and English and leave only "Hebrew (official)" under Israel's languages.



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(from the official website of the ATHENS 2004 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Mar. 5, 2004).

[Israel's page](#) in the official website of the ATHENS 2004 Olympic and Paralympic Games seems to be updated and change quite frequently - but not for the better.