

FIDE President Mr. Kirsan Ilyumzhinov visiting Syria

The FIDE President Mr. Kirsan Ilyumzhinov with his assistance Mr. Berik Balgabaev finished two successful days 13 – 14 / 6 / 2012 visiting Syria , arrived to Damascus on 13 / 6 in 19.00 hours he was welcomed in Four seasons hotel by the president of Syrian chess federation Dr Hani Albitar. They have made a small meeting for 30 minutes, and then the President Ilyumzhinov and Dr Albitar and Mr. Balgabaev went together to the festival of the national day of Russia organized by the Russian embassy.

The next day there was a very positive meeting between President Ilyumzhinov and Mr. Balgabaev and Dr Hani Albitar with Minister of Education Dr Saleh Alrashed. The subject was the importance of involving the chess in school and the minister was very positive about this project and he promised to sign the agreement with FIDE next visit of Mr. Ilyumzhinov to Syria soon. And in the noon FIDE President went to Almuhafazah club he was welcomed by Mr. Ismail Helwani, member of the Syrian Olympic committee, and Dr Hani Albitar, President of Syrian chess federation, and Mr. Fayez Alhamwi, President of Damascus sports, and Mr. Mohammad Alsibaii, President of Almuhafazah Club, and then he visited the best chess hall in the Middle East with 200 meter squares and 30 electronic chess boards and many screens to show the games and in this hall he opened the Syrian youth championship for category 8 – 10 – 12 year boys.

And the most important he was welcomed by a strong applause for few minutes from 60 young Syrian players with ages between 6-12 years old and he was specially impressed by the team of the city of home who prove that the will of life much stronger than the death, after that the President Ilyumzhinov played a strong blitz fight against a Syrian young players 12 years old and this fight ended by the victory of the president.

After that, there was an important press conference where Mr. Ilyumzhinov declared the goals of his visit to Syria, that to support the project of chess in school and also a letter of peace in Syria from the chess world how support the Syrian people to solve his problems peacefully and Mr. Kirsan said that his visit has no political goals and all the chess players are one family. And he said that there is no problem with the political apposition but the problem is with the terrorism, Dr Albitar and the Syrians representatives thanked the FIDE President very much for his important visit to Syria how give a strong support to chess in the country , also they thanked the Russian government how support a peaceful and political solution to the Syrian problem, and they said that they are again any point of blood bleed from any Syrian citizen.

After the conference President Kirsan made another meeting with Mr. Ismail Helwani member of the Syrian Olympic committee and Dr Hani Albitar and members of Syrian chess federation and they discuss the way how Fide support the Syrian chess federation and specially because that Syria is the Arab champion for boys and girls for youth under 8 – 14 years , and they agreed to organize two seminar in Damascus for arbiter and trainers, and also they agreed to help the Syrian chess federation to find a good trainers for Syrian youths and the youths of Almuhafazah club and also a trainer for the national team .

At the same day in the night the President Ilyumzhinov left Damascus from the airport after finishing two successful days.

Dr. Hani Albitar
President of Syrian Chess Federation