

## **Olympic Gold Medalist Wants Madrid Olympic Bid To Be Thwarted**

Olympic cycling gold medalist Nicole Cooke wants [International Olympic Committee](#) members from Britain to vote against Madrid's 2020 Games bid following Spain's doping scandal.

This was after a Spanish court ordered 211 blood bags to be destroyed without analysis even though it convicted Dr Eufemiano Fuentes of giving blood transfusions to cyclists.

Cooke said it is time to stand up for every one of those unknown victims of those bags of blood, every one of those robbed by the cheats. The Welsh cyclist accused dopers of bringing out the "darkest days" of the sport. She called on the British Olympic Association's IOC members to ensure a nation that allows its legal system to act in this manner can have no part in hosting any future Olympic Games. She went on to add that we now need our representatives to send the most clear message to the Spanish authorities and it is a great privilege to host an Olympic Games.

Cooke said Madrid seeks nomination for the 2020 Games and we have our IOC representatives, who have a vote to cast and they can, today, offer tangible sanction while we athletes can do little but comment and added that Sir Craig Reedie, Sir Philip Craven, Adam Pengilly, make your views public and crystal clear as this is not an area for inaction or even for 'behind-closed-doors' persuasions and urged them not to be quiet on this issue.

Cooke added nothing can make good that stolen by the criminals from their innocent victims. However, by standing idly by, the authorities, both in Spain and even here in the UK, make the pain so much more unbearable and said she knows that every child in my village wanted me to do my best. Undoubtedly every single one wanted me to win, but even more, every little boy and little girl would have preferred me to lose rather than win via some weird hormone replacement therapy and Frankenstein blood recipe, said the Olympic cycling gold medalist.

In another development, British distance runner Paula Radcliffe has criticized the decision of the Spanish court to destroy evidence seized in police raids on Eufemiano Fuentes and said it was "vital" the bags of blood were preserved, adding that Spain had been given a chance to show it backed the fight against drugs. The Spanish anti-doping agency is only just bringing into line its national legislation with the rest of the world to make it a criminal offence to take part in doping and to supply doping, and that was probably done to support the bid to host the Olympics in 2020, she said. The 39-year-old is a long-standing opponent of doping, having staged a placard protest against "EPO cheats" at the World Athletics Championship in 2001 and pointed out that the

court's decision comes at a time when progress is being made in the fight against the [use of drugs in sport](#). She suggested the decision could damage Spanish capital Madrid's bid for the 2020 Olympic and the head of the International Olympic Committee's medical commission, Arne Ljungqvist, has also spoken out against the court's order.