

Dear David Carpenter (President IYNAUS) and Board of directors, IYNAUS,

We have read the email that the-IYNAUS president has sent to us and also the letter that IYNAUS sent to all its members.

We would like to address two points mentioned in the letter.

Regarding the first matter, we are taken aback that you have chosen to hire an external investigator recommended by yoga Alliance to re-investigate this matter. We see your point that the Board of directors have taken this decision to protect the name of Iyengar yoga in America. The investigation by the Ethics Committee followed the standard procedure, due process and provided a clear conclusion. When all of those who were in the committee that were in charge of this investigation cleared the matter without any conflict, we don't see why you have reopened this case and that too with an external examiner. Without any additional evidence or witnesses, it doesn't make sense to have undertaken this decision. That too, to have an investigator recommended by Yoga Alliance is like admitting that the first investigation was not fair. It seems like IYNAUS is admitting to be lacking in its judgment and in that case, there is a bigger problem, not a problem involving just an individual.

Secondly, to call for anonymous complaints from 1992 to now is unreasonable and troubling. Guruji said that those who express views without revealing their names, are in political terms fence-sitters so that they can move to the side which is convenient to them. He did not accept those views and we honor his wisdom- that is yogic way. As a lawyer you may argue either side of it but we question the legality of this and strongly believe that it is not ethical or yogic.

Maybe you have taken this decision out of nervousness because of the havoc being created in the social media.

Even though we don't want to be judgmental it also seems like there is an animosity that is driving all this. You cannot assume that an individual is guilty and go all out to prove that. Yoga teachers and Iyengar yoga Associations should act with more responsibility.

Actions are superior to reactions. Any action that comes as a reaction is bound to be infested with kleshas (ignorance, ego, attachment, aversion and fear of death) and hence will not be administered with fairness.

We request IYNAUS to revisit this situation with a clear and calm head and humanness. There can be no yoga when human touch is not there.

You must bear in mind that Manouso is a very senior member of our family (Association) who has done a lot to take Guruji's teachings to the people. We all know him and we, Geeta, Prashant and Abhijata are very hurt that the National Association, instead of being fair, is out hunting for reasons to tarnish Manouso and his image. So, IYNAUS which should have gone out of its way to protect its family members and guide them and build the community based on good will and overcoming obstacles is somehow doing the opposite.

We hope it is still not too late and you can still get back on the path of yoga, which is our main aim.

Guruji in his explanation of Patanjali's yoga sutras said, one must get recharged and continue practice with faith, vigour, unpolluted memory and supreme absorption with devotion and right judgment.

We hope you will see our letter in the light of Patanjali's and Guruji's teachings.

With affection and faith,

Geeta Iyengar  
Prashant Iyengar  
Abhijata Iyengar