Ramāmaṇi Iyengar Memorial Yoga Institute

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Dear National Iyengar Yoga Associations and Iyengar Yoga Students and Teachers,

We write to close – once and for all -- an unfortunate chapter in our community.

Last April, we decertified Manouso Manos after an independent investigation concluded that he intentionally engaged in inappropriate sexual touching of students in his yoga classes on many occasions over the past 15 years. We determined that this was a fair investigation in which Manouso had the opportunity to defend himself.

We later clarified that Manouso cannot teach at Iyengar Yoga studios and that certified teachers may not meet educational requirements by studying with him. We assumed that our actions would end any relationship between Manouso and Iyengar Yoga.

However, that has not occurred. Some Iyengar Yoga teachers have continued to study with Manouso, and some have helped arrange or advertise workshops taught by Manouso at places other than Iyengar Yoga studios. We have heard reports that some teachers believe that Manouso did nothing wrong and that Manouso says his acts were legitimate "adjustments" taught to him by B.K.S. Iyengar.

We reaffirm our decision to decertify Manouso. It is supported not just by the investigative report, but also by other information that has come to light in the past year. We state unequivocally that Guruji never taught "adjustments" of private body parts, nor did he advocate any adjustment that may cause the student to feel violated. These are inconsistent with the *yamas* and *niyamas*, are contrary to the practice and teaching of Iyengar Yoga, and cannot be justified under any circumstances. We renounce Manouso's actions and the pain that has been inflicted. Our hearts go out to his victims—who deserve our attention, kindness, and compassion.

We now clarify that it is unethical for any Iyengar Yoga teacher to study with Manouso, to urge that others study with him, or to organise or promote his classes or workshops. If any Iyengar Yoga teachers do so in the future, they, too, will be decertified and lose their rights to Iyengar Yoga trademarks and certification marks.

Respectfully,
For Ramamani Iyengar Memorial Yoga Institute

Prashant Iyengar
Director

Abhijata Iyengar
Director

RIMYI Pune-16 Model Colony

PLACE: Pune

DATE: 24th January 2020