



The World Cup in gymnastics took place in Doha, Qatar, and **spectators** saw a letter 'Z' on a Russian athlete's shirt.

Ivan Kuliak placed the letter Z on his shirt in the place of the Russian flag. It shocked many people because the letter Z was a symbol of war, and Kuliak was standing next to a Ukrainian athlete who won a gold medal.

People first saw the symbol on Russian tanks moving toward Ukraine. Since that time, many people started to use the symbol to show that they agreed with Russia's **invasion** of Ukraine.

The International Gymnastics Federation started to **investigate** the incident, and it banned Russian and Belarusian athletes from all its competitions.

**Difficult words:** **spectator** (a person who watches at a show, game, or other event), **invasion** (when an army or country takes control of another country by force), **investigate** (to check something carefully, and to discover the truth about it).

**Discussion Questions****Topic Talk**

1. Define the following words: *spectator, invasion and investigate*
2. Where did the recent World Cup in gymnastics take place?
3. What shocked many spectators at the World Cup in gymnastics?
4. When did people start to think that the letter Z was a symbol of war?
5. Why are Russian and Belarusian athletes banned from all International Gymnastics Federation competitions?

**Express Your Thoughts**

1. Did your country have representatives for the recent World Cup in gymnastics competitions?
2. What do you think about the Russian athlete who was wearing a shirt with a symbol of war on it?
3. If you were one of the members of the committee on the International Gymnastics Federation, would you vote for Russia and Belarus to be banned from all its competitions? Why or Why not?