



सत्यमेव जयते



मेनका संजय गांधी
Maneka Sanjay Gandhi

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MINISTER
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW DELHI-110001

Honourable Mr Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

26.06.2016

Re: Cruelty to Bulls in Spain

Hon'ble Mr President,

We met when you came to India and I thought I would take the liberty of writing to you.

It has been reported that you are considering attending the "Running of the Bulls" spectacle in Pamplona when you visit Spain in July. On behalf of caring people around the world who abhor cruelty to animals and helpless beings, I am writing to urge you not to do so.

You may not be aware that each of the 48 bulls used in this archaic event is later subjected to a painful and protracted death in a bullfight. But over the past three years, there has reportedly been a sharp decline in the number of Spaniards who support this blood sport. Attendance at bullfights has decreased by more than half in less than a decade. Only 7 per cent of 16- to 24-year-old Spaniards surveyed in an Ipsos MORI poll said they supported bullfighting. There was only 10 per cent support among 16- to 34-year-olds and 19 per cent among 16- to 65-year-olds, indicating that the younger generations are increasingly rejecting this violence towards animals.

Bullfighting has lost favour around the world. It is banned in many countries – including India, Argentina, Canada, Cuba, Denmark, Italy and the United Kingdom. Spanish cities such as Calonge, Tossa de Mar, La Vajol and Vilamacolum, as well as the entire region of Catalonia, have also banned bullfighting.

Bulls also suffer in other ways during the "Running of the Bulls". Prior to the event, they are kept in dark enclosures so that they are temporarily blinded when forced out onto the streets with electric shock prods. They are deliberately terrified and chased through the streets by an often drunken mob. Runners hit them and twist their tails. The panicked bulls, who are literally running for their lives, often slip, fall and injure themselves or human participants or spectators.



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In your position of power, taking a stand for compassion for animals and against cruelty would have considerable influence. Won't you please skip this barbaric event and speak out against such cruelty? This would surely be celebrated by people all over the globe. Compassion is an important legacy to leave behind. It is remembered long after everything is forgotten.

With warm regards,

Maneka Sanjay Gandhi

Mrs Maneka Sanjay Gandhi
Minister for Women and Child Welfare
Government of India