

**MOST URGENT**

Shri Sulkhan Singh  
Director General of Police  
Police Headquarters, DGP UP  
Rana Pratap Marg, Dalibagh Colony  
Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh 226 001

4 September 2017

Via e-mail: [dgpcontrol-up@nic.in](mailto:dgpcontrol-up@nic.in); [dgp@up.nic.in](mailto:dgp@up.nic.in)

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**Re: Illegal sacrifice of a camel on the streets of Varanasi district, Uttar Pradesh, in broad daylight by seven families**

Dear Mr Singh,

I'm writing to you on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India and as an Honorary Animal Welfare Officer appointed by the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), which is a statutory body under the Government of India's Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. This letter is regarding an illegal, violent, and disturbing incident that occurred in the jurisdiction of Madanpura Police Station in the Varanasi district of Uttar Pradesh. (images attached)

According to a [news report](#), on Sunday, 3 September 2017 – on the occasion of Bakrid – a camel was sacrificed in broad daylight on the streets of Varanasi by seven families.

In an advisory issued (attached herewith) on 14 August 2017 which was addressed to all Chief Secretaries, Director Generals of Police, and Directors of Animal Husbandry Departments of all states and union territories, the AWBI urged strict action against those who illegally kill or sacrifice cows, calves, camels, and other animals. This action is mandated by The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (PCA), 1960; The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Slaughter House) Rules, 2001; The Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations, 2011; and The Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011.

As you know, The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Slaughter House) Rules, 2001, and The Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations, 2011, require that animals be slaughtered only in facilities registered with appropriate authorities. The Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011, also states that animals permitted to be killed for meat include only ovines (sheep), suillines (pigs), bovines (cattle), caprines (goat), poultry, and fish – *which means that camels cannot legally be killed for meat at all.*

Slaughtering a camel is also a punishable offence under sections 34 and 429 of The Indian Penal Code, which respectively state the following:

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**34. Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention.**

When a criminal act is done by several persons in furtherance of the common intention of all, each of such persons is liable for that act in the same manner as if it were done by him alone.

**429. Mischief by killing or maiming cattle, etc., of any value or any animal of the value of fifty rupees.**

Whoever commits mischief by killing, poisoning, maiming or rendering useless, any elephant, camel, horse, mule, buffalo, bull, cow or ox, whatever may be the value thereof, or any other animal of the value of fifty rupees or upwards, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to five years, or with fine, or with both.

Please note that this slaughter of the camel is also a punishable offence under the PCA Act, 1960. Section 3 of that act states the following:

**Duties of persons having charge of animals[:]** It shall be the duty of every person having the care or charge of any animal to take all reasonable measures to ensure the well-being of such animal and to prevent the infliction upon such animal of unnecessary pain or suffering.

Section 11(1)(l) of the PCA Act, 1960, says that it's a cognizable offence if any person "mutilates any animal or kills any animal (including stray dogs) by using the method of strychnine injections, in the heart or in any other unnecessarily cruel manner."

It's also a punishable offence under Section 11(1)(a) of the PCA Act, 1960, if any person "beats, kicks, over-rides, over-drives, over-loads, tortures or otherwise treats any animal so as to subject [him or her] to unnecessary pain or suffering or causes, or being the owner permits, any animal to be so treated."

Needless to say, it's the principal responsibility of the state police department to ensure that all laws are upheld and enforced. There are numerous laws in place to protect animals from unnecessary suffering, and in this case, a camel – an animal which cannot legally be slaughtered for meat – was illegally sacrificed in open daylight, and as yet, no action has been taken by the police in response to this infraction. Furthermore, news reports state that there were thousands of people, including impressionable young children, present to witness this sacrifice. However, no measures or actions were taken by the police to avert such a heinous crime.

Acts of cruelty to animals such as this one indicate a deep mental disturbance in the perpetrators. Research in psychology and criminology has found that people who commit acts of cruelty to animals often don't stop there – many of them move on to hurting other animals or humans. The US Federal Bureau of Investigation has found that cruelty to animals is one of the traits that regularly appears in the backgrounds of serial rapists and murderers. In India, too, serial killers have been found to have histories of cruelty to animals: Veerappan, a

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notorious serial killer, was also a poacher, and the infamous Noida serial murders of children occurred at the home of Moninder Singh Pandher, who was a hunter. In a study of battered women, nearly 60 per cent said that their abusive partners had harmed or killed their dogs or other animals.

The abuse or killing of any living being – including this camel – therefore endangers everyone in society and is unacceptable. We hope you'll agree that this incident must be adequately addressed before the culprit or culprits act again.

We'd like also to bring to your attention the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India's exhaustive decision in the judgment issued on 7 May 2014 in SLP(C) No 11686 of 2007 to the central and state governments stating that it's the duty of the government to enforce the PCA Act, 1960, and that if the provisions of the act and the directions and declarations of the Supreme Court are not properly and effectively complied with, the government should see that disciplinary action is taken against erring officers so that the object and the purpose of the act can be achieved.

We urge you to consider this matter with the utmost urgency. Please take steps to help ensure that the strongest possible police action is taken by registering an FIR against the offenders under sections 34 and 429 of IPC and under the sections of the PCA Act, 1960, listed above and that the culprits are punished to the fullest extent permitted under the law. The police may also recommend that the culprits be required to undergo psychiatric counselling and evaluation.

I look forward to your action and response. Thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Meet Ashar  
Emergency Response Coordinator, PETA India  
Honorary Animal Welfare Officer, AWBI, GOI

cc: Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister and Member of Parliament –  
Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh  
Shri Yogi Adityanath, Hon'ble Chief Minister – Uttar Pradesh  
Mr Rajive Kumar, Chief Secretary – Uttar Pradesh  
Mr Sidhanta Das, Chair – AWBI, GOI  
Mr Biswajit Mahapatra, ADG - Varanasi Zone  
Mr M Ravikumar, Secretary – AWBI, GOI  
Mr Ram Krishna Bhardwaj, Senior Superintendent of Police - Varanasi  
Mr Anuj Khare, Online Editor – *Dainik Bhaskar*

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