

To,
The Municipal Commissioner

26 September 2022

Respected Commissioner:

I am writing to you from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India on behalf of our more than 2 million members and supporters to request that you prohibit the sale and advertisement of meat on Mahatma Gandhi Road (MG Road) in your city from the 153rd anniversary of the birth of the Father of the Nation on 2 October, which is celebrated worldwide as the International Day of Non-Violence. We hope you agree that this municipal directive would be a fitting tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, who advocated for vegetarian eating and ahimsa.

Called the Mahatma (“great soul”), Gandhi ji taught that nonviolence begins with food. He said, “To my mind the life of a lamb is no less precious than that of a human being ... I hold that the more helpless a creature, the more entitled it is to protection by man from the cruelty of man.”

Selling and advertising animals’ flesh on a road named after Gandhi ji contradicts the wisdom he shared with the world. Animals raised for meat are treated violently. They are typically confined to filthy, crowded cages or warehouses and denied everything that is natural and important to them. They’re torn away from their loved ones and often subjected to painful mutilations or kept chained or tied in place until they are killed. During transportation in severely crowded trucks to slaughterhouses, many sustain severe injuries such as broken bones, suffocate, or die in other ways. In most slaughterhouses, terrified animals’ throats are slit and they’re even dismembered while they’re still conscious, in full view of their companions.

Eating animals wreaks havoc on human health, too. Today, doctors warn that meat and other animal-derived foods are linked to heart disease, diabetes, cancer, and other life-threatening ailments – and live-animal markets, factory farms, and slaughterhouses are behind animal-borne diseases, including bird flu and swine flu, which spread to humans. Indeed, scientists overwhelmingly believe that the current pandemic originated in a live-animal meat market in China.

Meat production is also harmful for the planet. A United Nations report has advised that a global move towards vegan eating is vital to save the world from the worst impacts of the climate catastrophe. And according to a study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, animal agriculture uses up one-third of the world’s freshwater and one-third of global cropland as feed for animals (instead of feeding humans directly).

Affiliates:

- PETA Asia
- PETA Australia
- PETA Foundation (UK)
- PETA France
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA US

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Gandhi ji once wrote, "I hold flesh-food to be unsuited to our species."
So why allow meat to be advertised and sold on a street bearing his
name? Replacing meat with peaceful plant-based foods would be a
lasting way to pay tribute to Gandhi's immeasurable impact on the world.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this important matter, and
I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



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