

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

PETA India
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To:
Director General of Police, Chhattisgarh
Police Headquarters, Raipur Chattisgarh-492001

01 June 2022

Subject: Request That the Illegal Sacrifice of Animals During Religious Occasions Be Stopped

Dear Sir/ Madam:

I'm writing to you on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India and our more than 2 million members and supporters to request that you ensure that municipal corporations in the state do not issue permission for the illegal killing of animals, including for animal sacrifices on religious occasions, and to urge that the police take immediate action on complaints with respect to the illegal slaughter of animals. We further request that you ensure compliance with animal protection laws during festivals involving animal sacrifice.

You may recall that we previously made similar requests *vide* our letters dated 1 July 2021 (Annexure A), 10 July 2020 (Annexure B), 2 August 2019 (Annexure C), and 26 July 2018 (Annexure D), in which we had requested that precautionary measures be taken to ensure the strict enforcement of all relevant laws and guidelines of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India with regard to the slaughter of animals.

Every year, thousands of animals, including goats, buffaloes, and camels, are sacrificed or killed in the state during annual religious occasions such as Id ul-Adha (which will be celebrated this year on 9 and 10 July), Dussehra, and Durga Puja as well as temple festivals such as Bali Pratha. In defiance of the law, many animals slated for sacrifice are crammed into severely crowded trucks, which routinely causes suffocation and broken bones. Others are marched to the place of sacrifice, and along the way, handlers break their tails and smear chili pepper or tobacco into their eyes to keep them moving. During sacrifice, people typically cut open the animals' throats in full view of other animals without first rendering them unconscious – a mandatory legal requirement.

The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), through its 25 June 2021 advisory (Annexure E), has asked the state government to take all precautionary measures to enforce animal protection laws in order to stop the illegal killing of animals and to take stringent action against any offenders violating the law. The AWBI issued similar advisories on 18 June 2020 (Annexure F), 15 July 2019 (Annexure G), 20 July 2018 (Annexure H), 9

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- PETA Australia
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September 2016 (Annexure I), and 4 July 2016 (Annexure J), asking the state government to direct the relevant authorities to take necessary precautionary actions to enforce the law and ensure that animals aren't being illegally sacrificed or slaughtered.

Killing animals without following the Government of India's compendium of acts and rules on animal transport and slaughter (Annexure K), as required by the Supreme Court order dated 17 February 2017 (Annexure L), is a punishable offence. PETA India was a petitioner in this Supreme Court case. A 2015 order of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh that banned animal sacrifice in the state had been challenged, and the Supreme Court directed in an order dated 10 April 2017 (Annexure M) that animals could be slaughtered only in an area set up in accordance with the law and that the municipal authority would be required to ensure compliance. Under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Slaughter House) Rules, 2001, and the Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations, 2011, the slaughter of animals for food is permissible only in a registered or licensed slaughterhouse. Any other sites used for the slaughter or sacrifice of animals are neither registered to kill them nor equipped with species-specific stunning facilities, which are mandatory under the law to prevent causing them unnecessary pain and suffering.

In addition, the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 (Annexure N), state that animals permitted to be killed for meat include only sheep, pigs, cattle, goats, poultry, rabbits, and fish – which means that camels cannot legally be killed for meat at all. Nonetheless, camels are illegally killed during Id ul-Adha in violation of The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960, and the rules framed thereunder; the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and the regulations framed thereunder; and Section 429 of The Indian Penal Code.

In October 2017, following the efforts of PETA India, the Municipal Council of Kullu issued an executive order refusing to grant permission for animal sacrifices which were scheduled to take place on the concluding day of the Kullu Dussehra festival. The order stated that there is no legally established slaughterhouse in Kullu and that there is no provision under the PCA Act, 1960, or the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Slaughter House) Rules, 2001, for granting permission for animal sacrifice in locales with a religious function, since they're not licensed slaughterhouses and don't have stunning facilities. In compliance with the direction of the Supreme Court, the order further denied permission to sacrifice animals (Annexure O).

In July 2021, taking into account PETA India's representation, the police headquarters in Manipur (Annexure P) issued directions to ensure that illegal animal sacrifices don't take place in the state. In July 2020, similar steps were

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taken by the police headquarters in Mizoram (Annexure Q) and Telangana (Annexure R) and in August 2018 by Meghalaya (Annexure S) and Odisha (Annexure T).

Animals are sacrificed in broad daylight in the presence of thousands of people, including impressionable young children. Such acts of cruelty to animals 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, including humans.

We'd also like to call your attention to the Supreme Court's decision in the judgment issued on 7 May 2014 in SLP(C) No 11686 of 2007 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 court are not properly and effectively complied with, the government should see to it that disciplinary action is taken against erring officers so that the object and the purpose of the act can be achieved.

The principal responsibility of the state is to ensure that all laws are upheld and enforced. We therefore urge you to consider this matter with the utmost urgency. Please take steps to ensure that the municipal corporations in the state are not granting permission for any illegal killing of animals, including animal sacrifices during religious occasions, and that when any such illegal activities are brought to the attention of the police, the complaints are immediately acted upon and necessary legal action is taken immediately. Please also take steps to ensure compliance with animal protection laws during festivals which involve animal sacrifice.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to your response. I can be reached at KiranA@petaindia.org or on 9619264382.

Sincerely,



Dr Kiran Ahuja, BPTH, DNHE
Vegan Foods and Nutrition Specialist
PETA India

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