

Ambassador Mukti Nath Bhatta

Nepal's Ambassade

Esplanaden 46, 2.

1263 Copenhagen

Høsterkøb, Denmark October 10. 2014

Your Excellency,

With this letter the Danish animal welfare organisation **Dyrenes Venner** wish to protest about the animal welfare conditions at the Gadhimai Festival, due to take place on November 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> 2014. We understand that this festival occurs every 5<sup>th</sup> year and during the festival a vast amount of sacrificial slaughter of animals are taking place. This protest is part of the international campaign led by the British organisation **Compassion in World Farming** (Ciwf).

We wish Your Excellency to bring our protest forward and urge the Nepalese government to take urgent and strong action to stop the sacrificial slaughter at the festival. A sacrificial slaughter festival of this scale is unlike any other in the world, and as you may be aware, sacrificial slaughter is illegal in much of the world including in the Indian states neighboring Nepal and including Denmark.

The methods of slaughter and transport used are completely in breach of the recommendations on animal welfare adopted by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), of which, Nepal is a member.

In particular there are three areas of existing legislation in Nepal that we believe can be enforced in order to help reduce the vast animal suffering that occurs at this festival.

- The Department of Livestock Services must implement a strict quarantine mechanism to prevent zoonotic disease outbreak and more precisely introduce the Gadimai Zoonosis Control Action Plan.
- The Government must ensure strict enforcement of the Animal Transportation Guidelines to prevent suffering of animals from inhumane modes of transportation.
- The Government must meet the Commitments it has made in the Convention on the Rights of the Child to protect children from witnessing mass inhumane slaughter at this festival which occurs in an uncontrolled, open public space.

With many thanks in advance for your assistance with this issue.

Yours sincerely,

Dyrenes Venner

Peter Mollerup, chairman