



*Membre d'honneur  
le Dalai-Lama*

YB Dato Sri Dr. Haji Wan Junaidi Bin Tuanku Jaafar  
Minister of Natural Resources and Environment,  
Kementerian Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar,  
Wisma Sumber Asli, No.25 Persiaran Perdana, Presint 4,  
62574 Putrajaya, MALAYSIA

Paris, October 11<sup>th</sup> 2017

Dear Dato Sri Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar,

I am writing to you to express my deep concern about Lasah, the wild-born Malaysian elephant, used and abused for tourism purposes on the island of Langkawi. I am aware that Lasah lives alone and is chained several hours a day, out of the tourists' view, when he is not used for rides.

According to a local Malaysian NGO, media reports and several petitions, Lasah has been used in tourism and entertainment for more than 25 years, worked in a logging camp and spent many years in zoos in and outside Malaysia.

As you and your Ministry are aware, the only way elephants accept to be ridden by tourists is by being crushed and frequently abused. Thanks to the advent of the internet and different social medias, this fact is now a common knowledge. It is also widely known that elephants must not be kept alone in captivity, males included. Depriving Lasah of the companionship of other elephants is cruel and has severe psychological impact on him, not to mention the repetitive elephant rides and the chains.

The abuses and exploitation of Lasah in Langkawi prevent him from expressing his natural behaviors, such as foraging and interacting with other elephants. Nonetheless, I believe that a place like the National Kuala Gandah Elephant Sanctuary of Malaysia could offer him this opportunity.

To this day, the Malaysian Government has spent tens of millions of Ringgit on pandas coming from China, and I can only hope that such a financial effort translates a certain concern about wildlife. Therefore I believe that the Malaysian Government will have no problem with welcoming and caring for Lasah, who is a Malaysian-born elephant, at the sanctuary. It is a moral and ethical obligation to give Lasah the freedom he needs and deserves after so many years of suffering.

I respectfully ask the Malaysian Government to retire Lasah to the Kuala Gandah Elephant Sanctuary where he can live as a free elephant without fear of abuse and exploitation. This is what Lasah deserves and the gesture of compassion everyone expects from the Malaysian Government.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Brigitte Bardot

President

**FONDATION BRIGITTE BARDOT**

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