



Paris, 5/05/2015

Membre d'honneur
le Dalai-Lama

"AN APPEAL TO THE TIMELESS WISDOM OF BHUTAN"

I have been fighting to protect animals over 40 years in many countries including Bhutan. Today, I feel deeply disappointed and immensely sad and upset to hear about the decision to introduce slaughter houses and intensive animal farming in Bhutan!

This decision will be the end of the sacred Vajrayana Kingdom that the world is watching with admiration and envy because of its peaceful integrity. The irony is that right when the Western countries are starting to watch the disastrous effects of their uncontrolled consumerism Bhutan will be heading blindly to make the same mistakes! Unfortunately the drive for illusory satisfaction and profit 'no matter what suffering is involved' seems to have reached the only Buddhist country in the world!

My Foundation has been actively supporting JANGSA since 2009 and my general director and project manager came especially for the inauguration of their shelter/clinic last September. During this visit they were reassured by a government source that all alarming rumors were unfounded. So the news of the introduction of slaughter houses has shocked us to our core!

There is no way that animals don't suffer when slaughtered, even when stunned before death. Bhutanese slaughter houses wouldn't be different from anywhere else in the world: just a horrendous hell for creatures who can't defend themselves. I just can't imagine any of your beautiful people going to deliver a blow to the skull or shoot a rod into the animal's brain. Or maybe electric current will be used to induce a heart attack or seizure? It is not uncommon that animals regain their senses after being hung on the bleed rail...

No animal, even the tiniest wants to die and it is our responsibility to protect them. It is also one of the first principles of Lord Buddha' teaching.

I beg Bhutan to reconsider such decision and show the world that the country keeps firm about its non-harming principles and that the Dharma country that we so admire will stay untouched by hypocrisy and pursuit of profit. The emphasis should be on awareness and education of the people on reducing the consumption of meat. This is related not just to caring for animal suffering but also for the integrity of the health and environment as well, the essential aspects of the Gross National Happiness. My Foundation wants to support your government in this endeavor.

With all my deepest hope and love for your country,

Brigitte Bardot
President

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