

Country of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_

To President Donald Trump,

I write to you today to alert your attention to what is widely considered to be one of the most brutal and inhumane practices of our times: the Dog Torture Trade. Otherwise known as the Dog Meat Trade, this cruel and deeply disturbing trade thrives across China, South Korea, Vietnam and South East Asia; still relatively unknown to much of the international community, I hope that my letter may bring awareness and exposure to this barbaric practice and that the United States government may feel compelled to take action where others are yet to.

The Dog Torture Trade is known for its relentless cruelty towards companion animals. Every year, millions of pet dogs are stolen from their homes, while strays are snatched from the streets. They are then transported to slaughterhouses, but the conditions are so horrific that many die along the way. Those who survive the journey are then subjected to torture of the worst kind; boiled, burned and skinned alive, their ordeal can be slow and agonising as the method of torture is often committed with the intent to cause as much pain as possible. Scattered, bloodied collars from pet dogs are often a common sight across slaughterhouse floors.

It flourishes throughout South East Asia as there are no animal welfare laws to protect these dogs. In China, where cruelty to dogs is widely known, documented, accepted and, at times, even encouraged by the authorities, dogs are viewed as vermin, despite the fact that millions of Chinese citizens love and own them as we do our own. The argument that the Dog Torture Trade is cultural is nothing more than a myth; up until a hundred years ago, dogs were revered for centuries by many across China; the rulers forbade the consumption of dogs as a mark of respect for the creature's loyalty to Man. It is only recently that the widespread torture and cruelty towards them took hold.

As a global superpower and a nation of dog lovers, I believe that the United States government has the power to help put an end to this barbaric cruelty. Dog-torturing nations must be made aware that such contemptuous treatment towards man's best friend is intolerable and has no place in the civilized world. The loyalty of the dog is second to none and his friendship with us remains unparalleled by any other living creature, the result of a bond forged for thousands of years. The dog fights for us in our wars, guides our blind and deaf, provides emotional support to those with PTSD, assists our police, herds our cattle, seeks survivors through rubble and provides love and support to millions of us across the world. Surely we must honour such loyalty by protecting him from the heinous cruelty inflicted on him in China and South East Asia?

2018 marks the Year of the Dog in the Chinese calendar. The great British wartime leader, Sir Winston Churchill, who, like yourself, was born under the sign of the dog, once said: *"Never give in, never, never, never – in nothing, great or small, large or petty; never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy."* For the many of us across the globe who object to this barbarism, this could not be more apt. This is a global fight; it is not exclusive to any one group, creed or political spectrum. Regardless of our beliefs or nationalities, we are united in one thing: our strong opposition to the Dog Torture Trade. Millions of people across the United States and the world are dog lovers; it is the one commonality that unites us all.

I pray that my words have been heard. I speak not just for the dogs, myself and countless others in the United States and the international community, but also for the millions of people across South East Asia, some of whom have had their own dogs snatched and bound for the Trade. They are crying out for help, as pleas to their own governments regularly fall on deaf ears. I hope only that my letter will have prompted much-needed awareness for the Trade and that action may be taken to protect the most loyal of our companions from what is undoubtedly an evil and inhumane practice.

Thank you for reading this letter. I hope you will do what you can to end the suffering.

Yours Respectfully

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Opposer of the Dog Torture Trade

