



AKT - AKTION KONSEQUENTER TIERSCHUTZ gemeinnützige GmbH

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Erste Fachberatungsstelle für
Tierschutz und Tierhaltung

INSTITUT FÜR
MITWELTETHIK



AKT - Tierstation für
Exoten, Wild- u. Kleintiere



- Lending our Voice to Life -

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To His Holiness Pope Francis
- personally -
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- **First Specialist Counselors on Animal**

Welfare and the Keeping of Animals

- **INSTITUTE FOR ALLCOMPRISING ETHICS**

- **AKT Animal Shelter for exotic and wild animals**

Biedesheim/Germany, on Feb. 5, 2017

- OPEN LETTER -

Ref.: Globalization of Ethical Standards – Outlaw Crimes Against Humanity.

Your Holiness,

when you came into the Pope's office on March 13, 2013 and called yourself Francesco or Francis, we were absolutely delighted, because Saint Francis was and still is a historical figure head for animals and thus for the protection of animals. Ever since 1931 the "World Wildlife Day" has been held on October 4. On this day people commemorate the Saint Francis of Assisi, who died on the evening of October 3 in 1226. (According to the ancient Roman understanding the time after sunset already counted to the following day, hence Oct. 4 was chosen for World Wildlife Day.) The Saint is famous not only for the foundation of the Franciscan Order but for his preachings in favour of animals as well. So St. Francis was both a secular and a spiritual pioneer of animal welfare and compassion not only for humans but for all non-human species as well.

As a think tank, which is active in Germany, with the focus on ethics on the part of humans towards other species, we turn to you in the hope of your understanding of our concerns as well as for the fact, that humanity also and above all is measured by how we treat subordinate fellow living beings, regardless of what their species are.

Our ethical understanding, which we call "all-comprising ethics" reveals far-reaching convergences to the New Testament's Christianity and to Buddhism. Even though the signer is not a follower of Catholicism but rather has a more agnostic attitude in spiritual terms, our basic attitude towards all beings is certainly in accordance with the ethic-

The founder of AKT in 2002 was awarded a prize by the German **Hans-Rönn Foundation "Menschen für Tiere"** (People for Animals) for his merits in animal welfare and for his all-comprising world ethics.

In July 2004, after 15 years at Karlsruhe, Germany, **AKTgGmbH**, a charitable limited company, moved their registered office to Biedesheim, where they built a top modern animal sanctuary with a **tropical hall for exotic animals and reptiles**. In 2009 the AKT Animal Protection Centre obtained the "**Animal Protection Award**" of the local rural district Donnersberg. In 2014 AKT "Action for Consequent Animal Welfare" celebrated 20 years as non-profit organization.

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al values that Jesus Christ represented and lived, decisively affecting our daily actions, reflections, decisions and our refraining from action as well.

There are – explicitly in the Western hemisphere – more and more people, who are developing anxieties about the mentalities and customs in other parts of the world, which leads them to reject all kinds of endeavours of globalization as well as supra-national structures like the European Union (EU) or the United Nations' Organization (UN).

You, your Holiness, are now experiencing how great the certainly justified fears of the population for example in Europe are, fears of the massive immigration of people from other countries, where, in comparison to Europe, violent mentalities are part of the daily lives of families, of their culture, of their religious practice. Even within the EU there are considerable ethical differences in the dealing with animals, if you think of the brutal and life deprecating custom of Spanish bullfighting, which is an old sadistic tradition, which is unthinkable for example in Germany.

To all of us, the human inhabitants of this planet, it must be clear, that a peaceful merger of the peoples on this ever-smaller planet will only be thinkable and possible, if first of all we work intensively on levelling up ethical values among the different cultures and above all, to outlaw all kinds of sadism against living beings, no matter what their species are, and to prosecute offenders.

The latest scientific discoveries in the fields of neurobiology, ethology and psychology all make it clear, that – regardless of zoological affiliation and systematics – animals neurologically and emotionally do not differ from human toddlers – and depending on the conditions of life they are bundles of pure joy and happiness or a bunch of fear, panic, and grief. An animal, who must suffer pain, is nothing but pain and suffering, he/she cannot rely on rationalization, an “explanation” or even a religious belief to draw comfort from.

It is a tragic fact, that billions of animals are tortured and killed by the fishing and fattening and slaughtering industry every year. Prevalent are ignorance and indifference based on commercial grounds regarding the animal victims, which is not only deplorable, but above all unacceptable because unworthy of human behaviour. To act against such misbehaviour with all due consequence is the task of the international community of states of all human peoples in the world, if we want to maintain our special place, as “the crown of creation” within our biosphere. How can we, as beings able to reason, continue to believe to be the most precious creatures on earth, when for low motivations we torture and murder billions upon billions of living beings, destroy our biospheres and finally threaten the future of life on the entire planet?

How can anyone with a religious creed – no matter of which confession – truly believe, that some higher being, be it God, Allah, a cosmic spirit or the deities of natural religions, could possibly grant approval or even consider it right to inflict pain and suffering on defenceless beings out of sadistic lust or other motifs. Only Satan might do that.

The protection of animals, animal welfare, is not only a duty for humans, it is a human right, a commandment of a humanitarian self-conception, which was first enacted as a law in Great Britain in the year 1770. The original motivation was to protect people against the brutalization and perverseness caused by the execution of atrocities committed to animals or by becoming witness thereof. Only in 1882 the law was substantiated and became the first animal protection law in the world for the sake of the animals.

Today, 247 years later, on this planet there are still nations, peoples and cultures that deliberately, for the “joy” of tormenting, torture animals in the most indescribable

ways. In those cases, the torture animals have to endure is not a by-product of the abuse and exploitation in industrialized livestock husbandry and slaughter. No, in China, in the Indo-Chinese countries, rather in the whole indo-pacific region, the countries in the Far East it is a kind of public sport – sometimes with cultural or religious “justification”, but most of the time without anything like that, just as a pastime, just for “fun”.

On the one hand, all these countries strive to achieve Western standards, to do as the Western industrialized nations do, but on the other hand the trenches of moral values are not bridged but continue to deepen.

To all enlightened people, it is clear, that in future especially China will dominate the political, economic and certainly the cultural events of this world. Therefore, we cannot be indifferent to the great amazement predominant in Western Europe and America about the mentality the Chinese and inhabitants of other Asian countries have especially in their dealings with animals:

Animals – **always with their bodies alive and fully conscious!** – are being eaten, boiled, torched, skinned, cooked, cut into pieces, their guts taken out, fried, strangulated – not dogs and cats only but also monkeys, cattle, frogs, reptiles and fishes of all kinds, octopuses, etc., even tigers! The internet is full of videos of such scenes, filmed as a daily routine taking place in open streets, in restaurants, in alleyways, on public squares and in backyards. Always there are people watching, often children, too, watching amused, laughing, zealously taking part. Never is anybody in view who stops the atrocity, at least shows disgust, grief or anger. Increasingly imitations are taking place in all the world – mainly committed by children and teenagers, who watched such videos – in Western countries, too. The socio-cultural and the psychosocial damage is immense, adding to the potentiality of such brutalization of people in all the world thanks to mobile phones and the internet.

If you want we can send you dozens of proofs, photos and links to videos, so that you can see for yourself the expanse of such atrocities, which can hardly be described in words. Let us refer to this link, in which explicitly the cooking and eating of living animals is described – a cruelty that can hardly be excelled:

<http://info.kopp-verlag.de/hintergruende/enthuellungen/udo-ulfkotte/die-videos-ganz-frisch-tiere-lebend-essen.html;jsessionid=47D2E0B59C6E0E97EB146B3EDEF80877>

But other practices and “business ideas“, too, estrange and disgust large parts of the international society, as for example welding living baby-animals into plastic bags, in order to sell them as keyring pendants or such. Numerous petitions and cries for help have already been published on the internet for years, that point out to such criminal deeds in China:

https://secure.avaaz.org/en/petition/Petition_contre_les_amulettes_danimaux_vivants_e_n_Chine/?wAUFybb

This cannot leave you, the leader of the major world religion with more than one billion followers in all the world, impartial, as it lastingly poisons the trust and confidence of our peoples into the peoples of those countries, that have no animal protection laws at all. It ruins every possibility to get emotionally and culturally closer with the people in Far Eastern countries, it breeds hatred and disgust, racism and nationalism.

There seems to be not a trace of empathy and compassion with non-human living beings in the cultural spheres mentioned, which is unbelievable, as all our endeavours are about creating harmony between the peoples of our world and to increase sympathy and understanding and mutual respect.

"The size and the moral progress of a nation can be measured by how they treat their animals." (Mahatma Gandhi)

Because of the central power of the government of the People's Republic of China it should be quite easy there, **to eliminate the bad habit of committing crimes to defenceless fellow beings**, whose ability to suffer has been proven by neurobiology to be no less than humans' ability to suffer, by passing new laws and running state campaigns. And even if states in Asia should prefer not to care about the well-being of animals and about fighting sadism and perversions in the treatment of animals – which we refuse to believe – even then laws making such atrocities a crime would make sense in consideration of the socio-cultural globalization of the peoples in this world.

In the wild, suffering and misery do exist due to natural disasters, by eating and by being eaten, but it is almost non-existent, that individuals of one species deliberately torture and tantalize individuals of another species. The phenomenon seems to be reserved to mankind. Although humans, who deliberately, knowingly and often with sadistic pleasure but also because of ignorance cause suffering, pain, anxiety to others, do not only harm those, who are at their mercy, but they harm themselves, too, and the social and cultural environment that participates as well.

Your Holiness, we put our trust in you to understand our intentions and to agree with our assessments. Please take all the necessary steps which are suitable to put an end to the horrible crimes we refer to. The time has long been ripe, to establish in the Vatican as well as at the United Nations a Department for Inter-Species Relationships, because we share this planet with 1.5 million animal species, who do not only matter in terms of conservation and the protection of nature but because all of them as individuals have their own intrinsic ethical value.

In the 21st century, a Charter for Animal Protection has long been overdue – maybe on UN level -, which should at least proclaim, that every animal, humans believe must be killed or are permitted to kill, is entitled to a quick, immediate death without pain, suffering and anxiety. Torture of animals and the infliction of pain and suffering should be defined as a crime against humanity in that charter. All UN member states should be requested to adopt a corresponding animal welfare law.

There can be no lasting peace between humans and peoples as long as cruelty to non-human beings is permitted. There can be no peace among the human peoples as long as humanity continues to wage war against non-human beings and against the world around us!

Your Holiness, please be a courageous and just Pope for all those, too, who are unfortunate enough not to be born as human beings. This planet does not belong to us humans alone. Non-human living beings are the largest population on planet earth. Only because animals are defenceless against humans, they must no longer be regarded as free to be abused at the discretion of mankind. Mentally disabled people and human newborns are just as helpless, yet they enjoy our protection and have rights. The same must apply to all other living creatures as well.

“To subdue the earth” does not mean, to allow arbitrary arbitrariness and to allow perversions such as sadism in all its forms to be transfigured culturally or religiously, instead of making compassion a synonym for humanity. Then we would not be God's image but monsters of evolution. “To subdue the earth” rather means to be aware of the needs of one's subjects and to respect them with benevolence and consideration.

Please, let us take those inconceivable atrocities of which we attach exemplary pictures to this letter as the opportunity to take the lot of the non-human population suffering under the dominion of mankind into account on a world wide level. We need impulses, from the international community of states as well as from the leaders of the world's compassionate religions, i.e. Christianity and Buddhism, which are listened to in all parts of the world, to initiate the re-thinking.

Please do not point out to the fact, that the misery of people in many parts of the world is great as well, and that unspeakable cruelties are committed by people to other people. Cruelty is not relativizable and its criminal attitude and impact are the same, regardless of who the victim is. The pictures attached demonstrate irrefutably, how right our statement is. Please do take a close look and tell us, that it is **not** God's will, his creation being treated like that. Thank you.

Your Holiness, it would be our greatest joy, to win you as a supporter, a solidary partner and patron of our initiative.

From spiritual point of view, we fear, that the degree of mankind's brutality will be increased by such actions, which in the age of mobile phones, smart phones, digital cameras and the internet are spread and watched all over the world - especially by children and adolescents - turning into a perpetual motion machine of horror for animals and for the human soul as well.

The world, which is within us and with us, is identical. Once again, our world should be turned into a sphere, in which it is worth being born into, a world which favours an optimum development and the unfolding of life and thus of souls.

Certainly, it is your conviction, too, that all those people with responsibility may not falter in their endeavours to pacify our world, not only for ethical and economical but for spiritual reasons as well, and to turn against all kinds of atrocities, especially committed to defenceless, unprotected living beings.

Please help us - with all your spiritual insight and your possibilities as the spiritual moral authority respected in all the world!

In the hope that you will take our assessments serious and provide suitable stimulus we thank you for your response and attention to this serious matter.

With best regards

AKT-AKTION KONSEQUENTER TIERSCHUTZ
gemeinnützige Gesellschaft mbH (seit 1994)
ACTION FOR CONSEQUENT ANIMAL WELFARE
non-profit limited company (since 1994)

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