



Shri Pranab Mukherjee
Hon'ble President of India
President's Secretariat
Rashtrapati Bhavan
New Delhi 110 004

12 January 2017

For your urgent attention and action

Dear Shri Pranab Mukherjee,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO). We are India's apex animal protection agency. As the collective voice of the animal protection movement in India, FIAPO is the catalyst that protects the interests of animals on local and national levels - through education, research, lobbying, mobilization, networking, training and direct action. Created for the movement, by the movement, FIAPO is India's only national federation. It has over 82 members and over 200 supporter organisations across the country.

On 7 May 2014, the Honourable Supreme Court issued a judgment that categorically held that Jallikattu and other events forcing bulls to perform are inherently cruel, in violation of The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, and the 2011 ban on the use of bulls in performances by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. And recently, after hearing the arguments of the counsel for the petitioner state of Tamil Nadu and counsels for the respondents - including the statutory advisory body Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), FIAPO and PETA India - a Supreme Court bench consisting of justices Dipak Misra and Rohinton Fali Nariman dismissed the review petition filed by Tamil Nadu against the 7 May 2014 verdict. **This means the use of bulls in cruel spectacles such as Jallikattu, bull races, and bullfights continues to be illegal.**

Jallikattu exploits bulls' natural nervousness as prey animals by deliberately placing them in a terrifying situation in which they're forced to run away from those they perceive as predators. AWBI inspection reports of numerous Jallikattu events between 2012 and 2014, which were conducted under government rules and regulations, proved beyond a doubt that no amount of regulation can prevent the unnecessary suffering of the bulls used. Bulls sustained broken bones, and two even died during these events. The AWBI-authorized inspectors also documented that during Jallikattu, participants disorient bulls by force-feeding them alcohol; twist and bite their tails; stab and jab them with sickles, spears, knives, and sticks; cause them intense pain by yanking their nose ropes; and punch, jump on, and drag them to the ground. The animals become so frightened that they slip, fall, run into barriers and traffic, and even jump off cliffs, so desperate are they to escape.

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During races, bulls are often hit with nail-studded sticks and pushed beyond the point of exhaustion. In bullfights, which often occur in Goa, a round ends when one bull either is killed or manages to flee.

Recently, during an illegal Jallikattu event held in the Shivamogga district of Karnataka, two people were gored to death by a panicked bull. When Jallikattu was permitted in the past, hundreds of human participants were injured each year and many were killed. In just four years, from 2010 to 2014, the media reported that 17 people died and approximately 1,100 injuries to humans resulted from cruel and dangerous Jallikattu-type events. Since these figures were taken from media reports currently available online, the actual figure is likely higher.

It's our view that the issuance of an ordinance to reinstate Jallikattu would be unconstitutional and an inappropriate use of power. As you know, Article 51A (g) of The Constitution of India 1949 makes it the mandate of every Indian citizen to "protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life, *and to have compassion for living creatures*"

We urge you not to promulgate any ordinance that allows bull races, Jallikattu, bullfights, or any other similar events or to allow the use of bulls as performing animals again under any circumstance.

Thank you,



Varda Mehrotra,
Director, FIAPO

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