

NEWS RELEASE



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NEW FILM RELEASED ON EVE OF OIE CONFERENCE SHOWS ANIMALS SUFFERING AS OIE GUIDELINES ARE IGNORED

As the OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health) prepare for their second animal welfare conference in Cairo (20-22 October), their guidelines on animal welfare, adopted in 2005, are being routinely ignored around the world.

Animal welfare charities Compassion in World Farming and Animals Australia have uncovered global incidents of animal suffering during transport and at slaughter despite international standards set by the OIE and adopted by governments worldwide.

The guidelines could provide real improvements in animal welfare. With shocking scenes from around the world, this short film shows that they are being ignored and animals suffering unnecessarily.

Breaches of the guidelines were filmed in a number of Middle East countries, Europe and the US. Animals are tossed in trucks, dragged or manhandled by their legs or horns, enclosed into car boots and left crowded in trucks parked in 45°C direct sun.

In the US, as in Europe, sick or injured cows are treated with brutality as workers try to force them to their feet and into the abattoir.

The importance of animal welfare is stressed by HRH Princess Alia Al Hussein of Jordan:

“Islam of course has long been very concerned with animal rights and if people observed proper Islamic procedures there would be no need for animal rights campaigns. We’re very keen that people actually understand really what our true teachings are and observe them properly.

“Jordan is a signatory to the OIE agreement and we’ve made enormous steps in the past few months towards actually implementing them. Hopefully we’ll be a role model for the region. We very much hope others will follow the example.”

Dr Manazir Ahsan, Director General of the Islamic Foundation in the UK, shares these views: “It is very sad that animals worldwide, despite the efforts contained in the OIE guidelines, are still the subject of the inhumane behaviour depicted in this film. There is no allowance in the Islamic religion for such appalling treatment of another living creature. We hope by raising awareness through conferences such as this and, with the concerted efforts of all organisations who advocate the rights of animals and their welfare, that we can improve the situation. I therefore urge everyone to ensure that the OIE guidelines are followed appropriately and animals are spared any further cruelty.”

“Every day across the world hundreds of thousands of farm animals endure terrible suffering during transport and at slaughter. Much of this could be avoided if the OIE guidelines were observed. We urge OIE member countries to implement the guidelines both by incorporating them into their own legislation and by ensuring that they are really complied with in transport and slaughter operations” says Peter Stevenson, Chief Policy Advisor for Compassion in World Farming.

Notes to Editors

Princess Alia and Dr Ahsan, together with representatives of Compassion in World Farming, will be attending the Conference on Islamic Principles on Animal Transport and Slaughter which is taking place in Cairo just prior to the OIE conference in Cairo on Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 October .

Contact Details: Interviews, footage and stills are available from Compassion in World Farming

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