

11 December 2009

Mr Jhabindra P Aryal
Charge d'Affaires
Embassy of Nepal
12a Kensington Palace Gardens
LONDON
W8 4QU

Dear Mr Aryal

Compassion in World Farming is the leading organisation for farm animal welfare worldwide. We peacefully campaign to end factory farming, advance the well-being of farm animals and to ensure that farm animals are treated with compassion and respect.

Compassion in World Farming believe that all slaughter of animals should be conducted humanely and that animals must be pre-stunned prior to slaughter using a method which causes immediate unconsciousness. There should be no exceptions, including for religious purposes.

We understand that in the village of Bariyapur in southern Nepal, a two day ceremony takes place in November every five years in the name of the Hindu goddess of power, Gadhimai, where some 250,000 animals are slaughtered.

Compassion in World Farming is extremely concerned to hear that the killing methods involved in this ceremony do not include pre-stunning the animals prior to slaughter.

In our view, there is no justification for taking an animal's life inhumanely. Compassion in World Farming values religious freedom, however, we do not believe this includes practices causing animal suffering, as in the case of the mass slaughter at the Gadhimai ceremony. Compassion lobbies for all animals to be pre-stunned before slaughter, even in the case of religious slaughter.

We strongly urge the government of Nepal to reconsider the slaughtering of these animals during this ceremony and ensure that provision is made for the humane killing of all animals at this and any similar events. We also politely ask you to work with international organisations like Compassion in World Farming and Animal Nepal to ensure that any animal slaughtered in the name of religion is humanely stunned first.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to hearing from you on this matter by return.

Yours sincerely



PHILIP LYMBERY
Chief Executive