

1 May 2009

HE Hatem Seif El-Nasr
Ambassador for the Arab Republic of Egypt

From:
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Your Excellency,

Compassion in World Farming has learned that the Egyptian government has decided to slaughter all the pigs being reared in Egypt, as an initial response to the global spread of swine flu.

We are surprised at this decision, as no other country has taken similar action and it has not been recommended by either the OIE (the World Organisation for Animal Health) nor by the WHO (World Health Organisation).

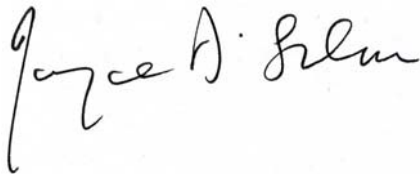
However, if this slaughter goes ahead, we would ask for an assurance that it will be carried out to humane standards in order to minimise the associated distress and suffering which could be caused to the animals themselves.

In 2005 Egypt voted to accept the OIE's Guidelines on Killing of Animals for Disease Control Purposes and the Guidelines on Slaughter of Animals. We are not aware of these Guidelines as yet being formally incorporated into Egyptian law. However we trust that they will act as guidance for any decisions which your government may make on the methods to be used to carry out this slaughter.

I look forward to receiving such an assurance.

With very best wishes

Yours sincerely



Joyce D'Silva
Ambassador for Compassion in World Farming