

31<sup>st</sup> of July, 2009

Dear Sirs,

in the classical bullfight countries of Europe and South America, a front against the bullfighting industry, with a lobby inside the political and economic arenas has been established.

Due to the publication of various messages in the media, we have experienced that "La Asociación Internacional de Tauromaquia (AIT)", tries to justify bullfighting as part of world cultural heritage. It is well-known, how influential this body is and it will stop at nothing in their attempts to convince UNESCO of their argument, and, in so doing, achieve their goal.

Organizations from all bullfighting countries have connected themselves. Spain, France, Portugal, Mexico, Colombia, Peru, Venezuela and Ecuador all collaborate in this effort through several international associations such as Unión Latina, Mesa del Toro, Asociación Taurina Parlamentaria.

Behind the bullfighting industry is a world-wide economical emporium which knows how to implement its power effectively without consideration to the level of cruelty and unnecessary loss of animal life.

These "public blood orgies" have been taking place since 1999 with the support of the European Parliament. Widespread corruption within this regulatory body has enabled Spain to continue the practice of bullfighting or what they call "Fiesta nacional".

For further information you are urged to read following article:

<http://hemeroteca.lavanguardia.es/preview/1999/06/02/pagina-84/34488133/pdf.html>

Bullfighting is a legalized form of public cruelty to animals, whose roots date back to the Middle Ages. Torture in the name of culture, does not fit into a modern world. Gladiatorial combat was also prevalent in those times and formed part of the culture at the time. However, as civilisation progressed in both knowledge and morals this form of cruel entertainment disappeared. Unfortunately, bullfighting has not followed this example; it still exists and remains largely unchanged in the level of cruelty that is applied.

We have an abundance of illustrative material of the various practices involved in this so called sport. This comprises film, photographs and reports. We are also in contact with politicians, animal right specialists, lawyers, sociologist, veterinary surgeons, anthropologists, philosophers, writers, journalists, biologists and other scientists who support our views and with whom we can put you into contact in the hope that we can put an end finally to the hypocritical and cruel world of the 'Taurinos'.

This is an open letter to UNESCO. It will be published and therefore we expect an open declaration from UNESCO. Of course we are open for further debate on this topic, through which, we are confident that we can convince you of the fact that bullfighting must be abolished and should not be nominated for recognition in the world cultural heritage.

The remit of UNESCO encompasses the promotion of education, science and culture as well as communication and information. However, it should not be promoting under this remit a culture which can only be regarded as barbaric in nature. Culture is not a static system but is dynamic and constantly changing in time.

The mission of the world inheritance convention is "Consideration of the fact if parts of the cultural or natural inheritance are of unusual importance and therefore must be kept as a part of the world inheritance for mankind." The support of the financial interests of the bullfighting lobby and the connected abuse of animals does not correspond to this mission. The bullfighting industry must be abolished and not promoted.

We do not doubt the historical significance and the artistic value of the bullfighting arenas but they could be used for other activities. However, as long as bulls are degraded, tortured and killed for a public minority, the support of UNESCO is morally, ethically and politically not justifiable.

We eagerly await your response.

Your sincerely

Martina Szyszka and Caroline Wagershauser



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