

President Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20500
U.S.A.

Amsterdam, November 30th 2014

Dear Mr. President,

In a few weeks it is Christmas again, the celebration of peace all over the world. Unfortunately for many of our fellow creatures in the world there is no peace at all. All over the world are wars, is terror, extortion, poverty and hunger. Many thousands of people fled, and are far away from their homes.

With this letter however, we like to bring to your attention the fate of our fellow creatures, the animals. They are, just like us, made of flesh and bones and they can suffer just as we can. They can feel pain, fear but also joy. Although they can't speak like humans, they are, just like us, very sensitive creatures with a unique character and their own intrinsic value.

We find it incomprehensible and unacceptable that so many animals suffer, get exploited and die especially for the celebration of Peace. Meat of, in particular, turkeys, rabbits, chicken, pigs and other animals who had to live in their sad existence in an animal unfriendly way in the livestock industry. But also meat from animals who live in the wild find a cruel death, after being hunted on, often they are not killed immediately and suffer for a long time, like hares, deer, pheasant, rabbits and hogs. Also fish and lobsters are killed in a ruthless ways.

Your youngest brother, George Obama, who lives in the slums of Nairobi and sees you as his great example cites in a documentary (http://www.npo.nl/broers-en-zussen/28-11-2013/VPWON_1199435) (at 21.05 in the documentary) to the upcoming violence of poor boys who because they work in goat slaughterhouses. He literally says: 'These children get used to blood. It doesn't affect them any more to stab someone. It becomes something normal to them'. Also the great Russian writer Tolstoy wrote: 'As long as there are abattoirs there will be battlefields'. Cruelty against humans, children and animals are connected and are condemnable in every form.

In our opinion with the celebration of Christmas, a celebration of peace, there should be no abuse, exploitation, violence, killing or slaughtering. Not of human beings and not of other creatures. Only then we can speak of true peace.

As the President of the United States of America, you are a powerful man. You have a lot of influence on the behavior of many people around the world. We want to ask you to help to realize a celebration of peace for all creatures on this world. You could do so by asking people in your Christmas speech, which is watched all over the world, not to let animals be part of the Christmas dinner this year and ask people to reflect on how they can treat their

fellow creatures with more respect. As President of the United States of America you could give the right example and show people that you are having a vegetarian Christmas dinner with your family. Because of the many possibilities these days it is possible to eat a festive meal without the use of animals. This way, Christmas can really become a celebration of Peace, of awareness of our consumer behavior in everyday life and this may very well be a step towards a more peaceful world.

We hope for a positive response and we would like to thank you in advance for your reply.

Very Respectfully,

Sandra van de Werd
Stichting Comité Dierenhulp
Postbus 94724
1090 GS Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Ds. Hans Bouma

Geoffrey Deckers
Stichting Een Dier Een Vriend (EDEV)

Bep de Boer
Stichting Rechten voor al wat leeft
en Werkgroep Kerk en Dier Alkmaar

Pauline de Jong
Faunabescherming

Hanno Berger
Stichting Dierenhulp

Dos Winkel
Sea First Foundation

Maryo van den Berg
Stichting KonijnenBelangen

Hans Baaij
Stichting Varkens in Nood

Chöyal Trizin Hof
Stichting Ganzenbescherming Nederland

Marian Eeltink
Stichting Dierbewustleven

Ron Visser
Stichting Stop Dierenleed Nederland

Ton Dekker
De Vissenbescherming