

President Vladimir Poetin  
23, Ilyinka Street,  
Moscow, 103132, Russia.

Amsterdam, November 30th 2014

Dear Mr. President Vladimir Poetin,

In a few weeks it is Christmas again, the holiday 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.

In this letter we want to ask your attentions for 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 self-esteem.

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 have a cruel death, after being hunted on, often they aren't killed immediately by the hunter who shot them, like hares, deer, pheasant, rabbits and hogs. Also fish and lobsters are killed in a ruthless way.

The step from violence and roughness against animals to violence against our own kind is small. The last one is a result of the first. The well-known Russian writer Tolstoj wrote: 'As long as there are abattoirs there will be battlefields'. Cruelty against humans, children and animals are connected and condemnable in every form.

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

You, the President of Russia, 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 realize a celebration of Peace for all creatures on this world. You can do so by holding a Christmas speech this year which will be watched all over the world. In that speech you can ask people to not let animals be a part of the Christmas dinners this year and ask people to think about how to treat our fellow creatures with respect. As President of Russia you could give the right example and show people that you are having a vegetarian meal with your family. Because of the many possibilities these days you can eat a festive meal without the use of animals. This way, Christmas can really be a celebration of Peace, of awareness of our behavior as a consumer in everyday life and this may very well be the first step towards world peace.

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

Yours sincerely,

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