



The Honourable Mr Nguyen Tan Dung
Prime Minister
Socialist Republic of Vietnam
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The Associate Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare

An all party group for members of both houses at Westminster formed to promote and further the cause of animal welfare by all means available to the Parliaments at Westminster and in Europe

20th November 2012

Dear The Honourable Prime Minister

As members of parliament we have been supporting the work of Animals Asia for a number of years. We have recently become aware of the situation with regards the possible eviction of the Animals Asia Vietnam Bear Rescue Centre from Tam Dao National Park due to the land being declared of national defence significance..

Animals Asia is devoted to ending the barbaric practice of bear bile farming and improving the welfare of animals in Vietnam. Animals Asia has been working in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development since 2005.

The possible closure of the established rescue centre would see 104 bears that have been rescued from the bile industry evicted, 77 local Vietnamese staff made unemployed, and financial losses to Animals Asia of more than US\$4 million. The local economy that depends on the centre would be severely impacted, and the Vietnamese government's commitment to ending bear bile farming would be called into question.

The eviction is in direct violation of the government's 2005 agreement with Animals Asia to fund and develop a facility on 12 hectares of the park that would permanently rehabilitate and house 200 endangered bears rescued from the illegal bear bile industry. This agreement was approved and endorsed by your office.

Currently 104 bears rescued from the bear bile industry are living on the site. The bears are being rehabilitated after years of trauma from being locked up in small cages and milked for their bile. These bears will be forced to return to cages to be relocated. This will have a major negative impact on their mental and physical well-being. Some will inevitably need to be euthanised and it is likely to take at least two years to establish a new centre with outdoor enclosures.

On 26 April 2012 the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development issued a directive ordering the Tam Dao National park director to allocate the land to the bear rescue centre in line with the original agreement with Animals Asia.

The claim that the land in question is an area of national defence significance is questionable, given that the centre has been in operation since 2005 and that the Chat Dau Valley, where it is located, has been used for tourism and other private purposes since the park opened in 1996.

We urge you to intervene in this matter and ensure the rescue centre remains in Tam Dao National Park and Animals Asia are allowed to continue their vital rehabilitation and education work in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Marisa Heath, Secretariat

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We congratulate you on taking the steps to end the bear bile practice in Vietnam and look forward to hearing progress with regards this case and the future of the rescue centre and the bears.

Yours sincerely,



Neil Parish MP

Chairman of the Associate Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare

Sent on behalf of the following members of parliament:

UK Parliament

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| Jim Fitzpatrick MP | Vice-Chair, Associate Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare |
| Andrew Rosindell MP | Secretary, Associate Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare |
| Russell Brown MP | Member, Associate Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare |
| Sir Peter Bottomley MP | Member, Associate Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare |
| Andrew Miller MP | Member, Associate Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare |
| Sir Roger Gale MP | President, Conservative Animal Welfare Group |
| Mark Pritchard MP | Vice-Chair, All Party Parliamentary Group for Vietnam |
| Justin Tomlinson MP | |
| Patricia Glass MP | |
| Mary Creagh MP | |
| Martin Caton MP | |
| Zac Goldsmith MP | |
| Bill Wiggin MP | |
| Julian Brazier MP | |
| Sir Tony Cunningham MP | |
| Adrian Sanders MP | |
| Gordon Birtwistle MP | |
| Katy Clark MP | |
| John Leech MP | |
| Mike Crockart MP | |
| Cathy Jamieson MP | |
| Mike Wood MP | |
| Rt Hon. Sir James Paice MP | |
| John Hemming MP | |
| Dan Rogerson MP | |
| Dr Tristram Hunt MP | |
| Glenda Jackson MP | |
| Graeme Morrice MP | |
| Chris Williamson MP | |
| Simon Reeve MP | |
| Rt Hon. Dame Tessa Jowell MP | |
| Kelvin Hopkins MP | |

Additional signatories since 1st November letter

Robert Buckland MP
Naomi Long MP
Kerry McCarthy MP
David Amess MP
Grahame Morris MP

European Parliament

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| Dan Jorgensen MEP | President, Intergroup on the welfare and conservation of animals |
| Carl Schlyter MEP | Hon Pres, Intergroup on the welfare and conservation of animals |
| Andrea Zanoni MEP | Vice Pres, Intergroup on the welfare and conservation of animals |
| Sirpa Pietikäinen MEP | Vice Pres, Intergroup on the welfare and conservation of animals |
| Kartika Liotard MEP | EP Intergroup on the welfare and conservation of animals |
| Keith Taylor MEP | EP Intergroup on the welfare and conservation of animals |
| Sonia Alfano MEP | EP Intergroup on the welfare and conservation of animals |
| Catherine Bearder MEP | EP Intergroup on the welfare and conservation of animals |
| Ashley Fox MEP | EP Intergroup on the welfare and conservation of animals |
| Jean Lambert MEP | Chair, Delegation for relations with the countries of South Asia |
| Bill Newton Dunn MEP | |
| Marian-Jean Marinescu MEP | |
| Gesine Meissner MEP | |
| Peter Skinner MEP | |
| Niccolo Rinaldi MEP | |
| Glenis Willmott MEP | |
| Bas Eickhout MEP | |
| Claudiu Ciprian Tanasescu MEP | |
| Syed Kamall MEP | |

Additional signatories since 1st November letter

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| Adam Bielan MEP | Delegation for relations with the countries of SE Asia and ASEAN |
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| Martin Callanan MEP | |
| Philip Claeys MEP | |
| Raul Romeva MEP | |
| Roger Helmer MEP | |
| Dr Kay Swinburne MEP | |
| Emma McClarkin MEP | |

Swedish Parliament

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| Helena Leander | Chair, Swedish Parliamentary Animal Welfare Group |
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Australian Parliament

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| Greg Hunt MP | Shadow Minister for Climate Action, Environment and Heritage |
| Sue Pennicuik MP | |

Copied to:

His Excellency Mr Vu Quang Minh

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