



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

ALCEE L. HASTINGS
20TH DISTRICT
FLORIDA

April 15, 2016

His Excellent Zhang Dejiang
Chairman
National People's Congress Standing Committee
Renmin Dahuitang West Road
Xicheng District
Beijing 100031
People's Republic of China

Dear Chairman Zhang:

I write to express my deepest concern for the innocent dogs that are horribly mistreated during the Lychee and Dog Meat Festival in Yulin, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China. More than ten thousand dogs are reported to be captured, transported and slaughtered every year for this festival. Animal rights groups have found that a number of these dogs are stolen pets taken from their homes to be brutally killed. This practice, in my opinion, is completely unacceptable.

Millions of people have called upon your government and the Party Secretary and the Mayor of Yulin to prohibit this cruel treatment of dogs in China. Alongside these voices, I urge you to draft legislation to prohibit this festival from taking place ever again. Not only are these dogs treated inhumanely, but the preparation of dog meat for consumption poses a risk to human health by exposing workers to a multitude of diseases, including rabies and cholera.

This is an unsafe practice that can be stopped by the diligent efforts of members of the Chinese government. Last year, the Yulin city government declared that it was not a sponsor of this festival and that it would strictly enforce food safety regulations.

I applaud these efforts and plead with you to take them a step further by implementing animal cruelty laws to protect these dogs, our companions, from further maltreatment. I respect the traditions of China, but these events and activities tarnish China's reputation across the world. Once again, I implore you to ensure China remains an ecologically civilized society that respects the rights of humans and animals alike.

Sincerely,

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Cui Tiankai, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the United States of America