

.....  
.....  
.....

To  
Shri Mitsuo Kawaguchi  
Consul-General of Japan, Kolkata  
55, M. N. Sen Lane, Tollygunge  
Kolkata-700040.  
India.

Dear Sir,

We, ....., are writing to you to voice our concern on the subject of the annual dolphin drive hunts that occur in Japan, particularly in Taiji (太地町), Higashimuro District, Wakayama.

We are alarmed to know that more than 20,000 dolphins are slaughtered each year in the name of custom and tradition in Japan. Dolphins are exceptionally intelligent creatures, capable of consciously experiencing pain. Dolphin meat from such hunts is being sold to consumers under the false label of whale meat – it is dangerous to consumers as it contains high levels of mercury which could lead to *Minamata* disease. Many schools in Japan serve dolphin meat to the children as part of their lunch. Most parents believe this to be whale meat imported from the Antarctic, when the truth is that it is contaminated dolphin meat from these murderous dolphin hunts.

Whaling and dolphin drive hunts are a crime against this already fragile species. Since the IWC moratorium on whaling, Japan is constantly seen in the forefront, making innumerable attempts to legalise commercial whaling, despite the fact that many whale species are endangered, and also there is poor demand for whale products. Japan also engages in large-scale whaling activities under the guise of “scientific whaling”.

With regard to the above, we would like to convey our strong voice of protest against these inhuman activities. We feel that as one of the most advanced nations in the world, Japan should break away from the bonds of such “tradition” that would only result in the loss of such a precious species. We believe that as one of the leaders of the world, Japan should actively participate in the process of conservation and establish itself as an ideal example of sustainable development and progress. We speak on behalf of a large number of people who share this belief and feel that this practice should be done away with completely, and the Japan government needs to take urgent action to end these wanton practices.

We register our protest to you, a representative of the Japanese government, and urge you to forward this to the appropriate Japanese authorities and convey our protests to Mr. Yoshihiko Noda, Prime Minister of Japan. We are hopeful that the Japanese Government takes a humane call to revoke permits that allow Japan’s Fisheries Agency to continue this heinous, dangerous and illegal practice.

Your immediate action is needed. The next dolphin hunt at Taiji starts on 1st September, 2012.

Signed,

( )

**Signatures on reverse / additional pages »**