



EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA  
Ms Rafeda Abduazis  
Slavujevac 4a  
10000 Zagreb

November 26, 2007

Dear Ms Abduazis,

I am writing to you on the behalf of the more than 2,500 members and 7,000 supporters of the Croatian animal protection and rights group Animal Friends.

It is our understanding that the government of Malaysia is considering lifting its long standing ban on the exportation of non-human primates. It is likely that these monkeys would be destined for the research industry. This is of great concern because of the animal welfare implications.

I am sure you can imagine the amount of the suffering involved in the international trade in primates for research; in particular, the injuries and mortalities involved in the capture and confinement of these highly intelligent and sensitive animals. Furthermore, the anxiety and stress associated with their transportation. Packed in small crates, primates travel as cargo on extremely long journeys where they may have to endure inadequate ventilation, noise and extreme temperature fluctuations.

Primates are highly intelligent, social animals with complex behavioral and psychological needs. Perhaps you are unaware of the common fate of primates in the research industry. These animals are likely to be subjected to pain and suffering, sometimes extreme, in the research laboratories to which they are shipped. For example, many of them will be used in toxicity testing which involves the forced ingestion, inhalation or injection of poisonous chemicals. After sometimes years of this type of abuse, the animals are then killed. Although there is controversy about this, many scientists agree that this type of testing and killing of these primates is unnecessary scientifically and is morally unacceptable.

We understand that the reason given for the lifting of the ban is because of the conflict between humans and monkeys in urban areas. There are humane solutions to this problem that do not involve the trapping and exporting of monkeys.

During the next few weeks, animal protection organisations across the European Union will be writing to the government of Malaysia asking for the ban on the export of primates to remain in place. Likewise, supporters and members of the public will be voicing their concern to Malaysian embassies in their countries.

Malaysia made an important stance when it banned the export of primates, partly as a result of learning the horrific nature of the experiments to which these animals were being subjected. Now, at a time when the ethics regarding the use of primates in research is being raised internationally, it is disheartening to learn that Malaysia is planning to once again allow its primates to be exported. We urge you to maintain the important ban that your country implemented in 1984. Malaysia should protect its indigenous population of monkeys by refusing to allow their export for any use, particularly for breeding or research.

Yours sincerely,

Luka Oman  
President of the Animal Friends