



Verein gegen Tierfabriken
DDr. M. Balluch
Waidhausenstraße
1140 Wien
Österreich

The Hague, June 13th 2008

Dear Dr. Balluch,

I would first like to express my deepest sympathies for your situation. The Party for the Animals and its members were deeply shocked to discover that you had been forcibly been arrested and taken into custody. We also are appalled by the way the Austrian justice system has extended your imprisonment without any charges having been pressed. It is clear that the mere expression of the human right to protest has been violated by the Austrian authorities.

Secondly, I would like to inform you that the Party for the Animals has taken action to make the Dutch government aware of your case. I have asked parliamentary questions to the Minister of Foreign Affairs about the violation of your civil rights by the Austrian government. Moreover, I have asked the Minister to contact the Austrian Ambassador in the Netherlands to denounce the actions of the Austrian authorities on behalf of the Dutch government. I hope to receive their response within the next three weeks.

Thirdly, the Party for Animals is very concerned about the current European development of limiting the freedom of expression and the continuing obstruction of the freedom of demonstration for animal rights campaigners. In the Netherlands, there is a tendency to criminalise animal rights activists without any evidence of violent or criminal behaviour. In our parliamentary work, we are trying to counteract the severe impact of anti-terrorism legislation on our civil rights.

We will continue to draw attention to your case in the Dutch parliament and public. We published articles on our websites and our youth organisation, Pink, is planning a protest at the Austrian Embassy. If you require further support, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Thieme', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marianne Thieme LL.M
Leader & Chair of the Party for the Animals, The Netherlands