



PO Box 252
BRIDGEWATER TAS 7030
Phone 0414 726935

Fax: (03) 6249 7726
Email suzannecass@iprimus.com.au
www.liveexportshame.com

NEWSFLASH

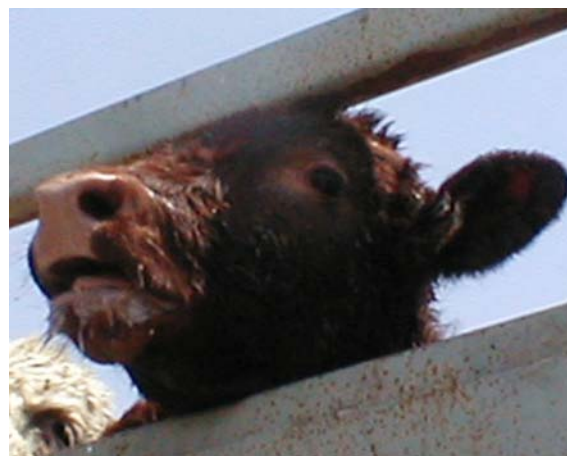
NEWSFLASH

NEWSFLASH

1 August 2006

OPEN LETTER TO MINISTER MCGAURAN AND THE HOWARD GOVERNMENT

Live Export Shame Tasmania joins with Compassion in World Farming and other animal advocacy groups in an appeal to Agriculture Minister Peter McGauran and the Howard Government to stop the export of live animals to the Middle East during the present hostilities.



(Photos: Anonymous for Animal Rights Israel, Israel Jordan border)

Spokesperson Suzanne Cass said:

“Since the government makes extravagant claims about its commitment to animal welfare, we want to add our voices to those of other concerned groups about the fate of animals sent to the Middle East at any time, but particularly now. Two ships, the ‘Maysora’ and the ‘Bader III’ have both delivered Australian animals to the port of Eilat in Israel this month to an unknown fate. This adds to the stranding of the ‘Friesian Express’ last week with 1850 Brazilian bulls on board when it was stopped from docking in Lebanon.

“We now have an unconfirmed report of 50 bulls and 300 sheep being killed in a raid near Beirut; it is just a horror story”.

Compassion in World Farming detailed its concerns in recent days, saying that although the animals are unloaded in Eilat in Southern Israel, they are transported by road to the more populous northern regions. “Many cattle from the shipments are transported by road to the Palestinian Authorities – Gaza and the Palestinian West Bank”, said CIWF. “In order to get to Gaza they must pass through the Karni Crossing, a cargo terminal serving Israel and Gaza. Even when the terminal is functioning normally, long delays can be experienced, the cattle forced to spend many additional hours on

transport vehicles. The vehicles may also be turned away still carrying their live cargo, with obvious welfare consequences”.

“These animals suffer terribly, particularly at the height of summer, and now that the conflict continues to escalate there is no way of knowing what happens to them”, continued Ms Cass. “The unloading and handling and ground transport is already lengthy, stressful and exhausting, and that is on top a terrible sea voyage, mostly on old, third world ships like the ‘Bader III’ and the ‘Maysora’.

“The government simply MUST listen to reason, make good on some of its promises about animal welfare, and stop sending animals to this volatile region. We know that they care nothing for the cruelty inflicted on these animals in importing countries, but while the situation continues to deteriorate in Israel and Lebanon, with the potential for hostilities to spread, they cannot, on any terms, justify continuing to send animals into this conflict”, Ms Cass concluded.

For further information, please contact Suzanne Cass, 0414 726935.



*The 24 year old “Friesian Express”
Cattle are carried below decks in terrible heat*



The 28 year old “Bader III”



*The “Maysora”, built in `1989
Animals piled high.*