



**HUMANE SOCIETY  
INTERNATIONAL**

The Honorable Cui Tiankai

Ambassador to the United States for the People's Republic of China

Embassy of the People's Republic of China

3505 International Place, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20008 USA

June 18, 2014

Dear Ambassador Cui Tiankai:

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your contributions to expanding bilateral ties between the People's Republic of China and the United States. We at The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS <http://www.humanesociety.org/>) and its international arm, Humane Society International (HSI: <http://www.hsi.org/>), have watched with interest the many positive developments not only in bilateral relations but also those resulting from China's commitment to building an "ecologically civilized" society.

I am writing today to bring your attention to the worldwide reaction to the Yulin Dog Meat Festival and its celebration of dog meat consumption around the dates of the summer solstice (June 21). Right now in China, thousands of dogs are being cruelly bound and trucked over long distances for the dog meat celebration. Dogs and puppies—many of them stolen pets—are captured, transported, confined and slaughtered under horrific conditions. As a member of the Asia for Animals Coalition, Humane Society International joined a letter addressed to Governor Chen Wu of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region (see the enclosed letter) urging him to intervene and put an end to the mass dog consumption in Yulin. Dog eating is an increasingly controversial culinary sub-culture in China, and we took steps to make the governor more aware of the animal welfare, public health, food safety, social stability, and reputational costs of the event.

Since its inception in 2009, the Yulin mass dog slaughter for the summer solstice celebration has attracted worldwide criticism. In 2013, it was condemned by more than 40,000 people around the world. This

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Worldwide

year, more than 100,000 people have expressed disbelief and anger over this event driven by Yulin's dog meat dealers.

Please convey the sincere message, Mr. Ambassador, to Yulin city authorities and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region government, that such cruelty should not be tolerated. Mass transport, slaughter, and consumption of dog meat during the summer solstice are high-risk activities against which responsible governments must intervene. Guangxi has breathtaking natural beauty, Yulin's mass dog consumption tarnishes Guangxi's reputation, and the entire affair runs counter to President Xi Jinping's grand vision of building China into an "ecologically civilized society."

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew N. Rowan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Andrew N. Rowan, CEO and President