

Princeton University

University Center for Human Values

5 Ivy Lane

Princeton, New Jersey 08544-1013

Peter Singer

Ira W. DeCamp Professor of Bioethics

Tel: (609) 258-2202

Fax: (609) 258-1285

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To Whom It May Concern:

It is with astonishment and consternation that I have learned of the arrest of Martin Balluch in Austria, and of the claim that he has engaged in violent activity on behalf of animals.

I am Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University, in the United States, and widely recognized as an expert in ethical issues regarding our treatment of animals. I am the author of the seminal work in this field, *Animal Liberation*, first published in 1975 and now available in more than 20 languages. I have been a consistent advocate of non-violent methods of change regarding our treatment of animals.

As part of my worldwide involvement with the animal movement, I have been in contact with Martin Balluch for many years. Mr Balluch has always been an advocate of gradualism and reform, never of violence. Because of this, I invited him to contribute an essay to my collection *In Defense of Animals: The Second Wave*, published by Blackwell, Oxford, in 2006. No advocates of violence appear in this book.

In his essay, "How Austria Achieved a Historic Breakthrough for Animals," Mr Balluch is a strong advocate of using democratic means of achieving change. For example, on pp. 164-5 he offers five recommendations for campaigners. They are all tactics like influencing politicians, contacting journalists, and getting the support of scientists. He specifically disavows violence, writing:

No realistic level of guerilla attacks fo the kind carried out by the Animal Liberation Front could have hurt the battery farming industry as much as the new Austrian law does. I hope that the kind of campaigns favored by people in the ovement are not determined by what is "cool" and makes you feel better, but, rather, by what is most effective in achieving animal rights. A law banning a whole industry does far more economic damage to the animal abuse industry than anything else the animal movement could do.

The success against battery farming now proves that a ban on a major industry is possible, even if based solely on ethical arguments. (p.166)

In the light of my knowledge of Mr Balluch and his consistency in advocating non-violence, I cannot believe that the charges against him have any basis in evidence. Unless the police are able to bring evidence against him, his continued detention would be a violation of the basic rights of freedom of expression that are fundamental to a democracy, and would bring opprobrium on Austria's international reputation as a liberal democratic state. I urge his immediate release.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter Singer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Peter Singer