

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Rural Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Sir, Madam

I am appalled by this government's decision to resume the live export trade. The Australian government is disempowering itself by giving away its power to the dictates of a foreign government. We have the cards to play our game and we are allowing Indonesia to call the shots. How embarrassing. We had the chance to end this cruel practice of allowing our cattle to be tortured for a long time until an unspeakable painful death and this government just gave this power away. I am appalled. There are no words to describe how gutted I feel. We have been pushed around like a little bullied kid in the school grounds. This is Australia where people have struggled to bring certain standards to life.

The cattle trade could be resumed sending meat, packaged according to Halal and Australian standards. This would create jobs in Australia. The New Zealand government would not be complicit in such cruelty, neither would most other civilised developed countries. Instead of throwing money at this government in aid, which most likely doesn't reach people who it should reach, money could be used to lift the standards in this industry, even to subsidise meat for the poor.

I will never forget the images I saw on the ABC programme. How can *civilised* people allow this to occur? There is little hope for humanity if the live animal trade continues to these primitive countries where the shadowy side of humanity is unleashed upon animals. It's like living a nightmare that one can't wake up from.

Julia Gillard obviously had no intention of ever stopping this slaughter. She is complicit in the trade of torture, as is every other Australian who voted to continue this nightmarish slashing of our animals while they are still alive.

Best regards

Deborah Favier