

Mr. Alfonso Fernández Mañueco, President
Mr Juan Carlos Suárez-Quiñones Fernández, Environment Regional Councillor
Castilla y León Regional Government

Subject: SIGNATURES AGAINST THE RETURN OF THE TORO DE LA VEGA TOURNAMENT

In spite of the many allegations presented by PACMA and other animal welfare organisations, the Junta has given its approval to the return of the Tournament. We, the undersigned, hereby wish to express our deepest rejection and condemnation of this decision.

Nowadays, there is no longer any doubt that animals are endowed with physical and mental sensitivity. This is recognised in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, since 2007, and in our Civil Code, since last January.

In spite of this, Spain continues to be known worldwide for its cruel traditions towards animals, especially bulls, although the majority of Spanish society is ashamed of a concept of culture based on mistreatment.

Year after year, the outrageous Toro de la Vega Tournament marked Spain internationally, with a spectacle that represented the greatest exponent of animal mistreatment, until, thanks to enormous social pressure, the killing of bulls in public was banned.

After more than six years, the Town Hall of Tordesillas intends to hold a new Tournament, whose regulation will allow the lancers to nail the animal up to seven spears, using punches and double harpoons, which, as stated by veterinary experts such as those from Avatma, will cause the animal "wounds and trajectories of up to 12 centimetres deep", which could cause a pneumothorax, a potentially mortal affection.

Spain's animal rights party PACMA expressly warned the Junta that the wounds could be even deeper, given that the Ordinance does not foresee, as the Bullfighting Regulations do for the spears, that they are provided with a stop at their base, which is what prevents the picadors' pole from sticking deeper into the animals.

Since the 13th century, attempts have been made to abolish this event because of its extreme cruelty, which even then was considered unworthy of a civilised people. It is inconceivable that eight centuries later, the Junta still allows the celebration of such an atrocity, especially when it recognised in the Explanatory Memorandum of the Decree-Law that prohibits the killing of bulls in public that "The legal system cannot be separated from the reality and social ethics of each historical moment" and this type of spectacle "is confronted with the will and sensitivity of a society that demonstrates repeatedly and increasingly, through different means, including public demonstrations".

Society says NO to VIOLENCE. Society is asking you to STOP legal exceptions to ABUSE. Society demands that you STOP THE RETURN OF THE TORO DE LA VEGA TOURNAMENT.

We demand it through this letter, we will demand it in the courts and we will demonstrate it again in the streets. Until abolition.