

Omar Osama bin Laden
c/o Bakr M Binladin, Chair and CEO
Saudi Binladin Group
PO Box 8918
Jeddah 21492
Saudi Arabia

3 February 2008

Dear Omar Osama bin Laden,

I am writing from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), the largest animal rights organisation in the world, which has more than 1.8 million members and supporters. I read with great interest that you and your wife, Zaina Alsabah, wish to be ambassadors for peace. This is a noble intention. However, we ask that you please reconsider your idea of holding an endurance test for horses over 3,000 miles of North African terrain, regardless of how developed your plans for this event may be. This race will exact a heavy toll on the animals – please substitute a human endurance race involving willing participants for this horse race. There is nothing peaceful about causing animals to suffer, as Mohammed (pbuh), Jesus and all great religious leaders have pointed out in their admonitions and writings.

Under the relentless North African heat, immense fatigue and dehydration – more so when they are being pushed to win – is inevitable for the horses, and it will ruin your message for all those who care about animal welfare. Putting horses in danger of injury, especially if there is no provision for suitable veterinary care along the way, can only be cruel. I am sure it cannot be your wish to condemn animals to suffer and even die.

I am certain that you believe that all beings deserve peace – regardless of their religion, gender, race or species. Please let us know that you will extend your compassion to include animals, who strive only to live in harmony with us.

Very truly yours,

Ingrid E. Newkirk
President



PETA

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

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AN INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION DEDICATED
TO PROTECTING
THE RIGHTS OF ALL ANIMALS