



International Organization for Animal Protection Organizzazione Internazionale per la Protezione degli Animali - Onlus

NGO associated with the UN Department of Global Communications (DGC)
UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Accredited to the UN Environment Assembly and Programme (UNEA - UNEP)

Accredited to the Transparency Register of the European Commission

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United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

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To whom it may concern,

in view of the next **UN Climate Change Conference (COP29)**, which will be hosted in Baku, Azerbaijan, from November 11 to 22, 2024

OIPA – International Organization for Animal Protection, a non-governmental organization committed to defending animal rights and protecting animals from cruelty and abuse worldwide,

is calling on the UNFCCC Secretariat to reconsider the location and country chosen to hold the conference in light of the **ongoing mass killings** of dogs taking place in the capital Baku and other regions of Azerbaijan.

Although the Republic of Azerbaijan joined the European Convention for the Protection of Pets in 2007, according to which governments should adopt measures to control the overpopulation of stray animals through methods that do not cause suffering, pain, or discomfort; mass killings directly ordered and performed by the government's executive authority continue to be conducted for reducing the number of stray dogs.

A government's **cruel behaviour** towards animals shapes the same cruel attitude among citizens, who get around shooting and poisoning innocent dogs at night, in broad daylight and many times performing their barbaric acts even in front of children.

This behaviour is intolerable and ethically unacceptable, and it also contravenes the **General Comment No. 26 (2023)** on Children's Rights and the Environment published on August 22, 2023 by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, which states that "**children must be protected from all forms of physical and psychological violence and from exposure to violence, such as domestic violence or violence inflicted on animals.**"

There are dozens of dogs being exterminated every day. The culling involves animals who have been vaccinated, neutered and spayed by volunteers, dogs notched on ears and even pets roaming the street.

As an animal protection organization, we have been exposing the atrocity suffered by stray dogs in Azerbaijan for years, becoming the voice of local volunteers and animal activists who have never been heard and to whom the right to protest against the killing of dogs is completely denied.

We hereby ask you reconsider your decision to host the next COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

A country that fails to protect both animals and people, it has no credibility to guide other nations in promoting climate and environmental protection as well as in promoting a positive One Health approach example.

We are confident you will take the matter seriously and finally take a stand against violence and animal cruelty.

Our team is at your disposal for any questions and ready to cooperate.

Sincerely Yours,

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Sources:

General Comment N. 26 - UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/general-comments-and-recommendations/crccgc26-general-comment-no-26-2023-childrens-rights>

European Convention for the Protection of Pets – list of participants

<https://www.ecolex.org/details/european-convention-for-the-protection-of-pet-animals-tre-001041/participants/>

Articles from OIPA's website

April 2024: <https://www.oipa.org/international/cop29-baku-mass-dog-killing/>

October 2023: <https://www.oipa.org/international/azerbaijan-dog-shot-in-the-head/>

July 2023: <https://www.oipa.org/international/story-of-animal-activist-in-azerbaijan/>

June 2023: <https://www.oipa.org/international/azerbaijani-mp-proposes-to-export-stray-dogs/>

April 2022: <https://www.oipa.org/international/azerbaijan-animal-human-rights-trampled/>

November 2021: <https://www.oipa.org/international/another-shot-another-death-azerbaijan-stray-dogs/>

November 2021: <https://www.oipa.org/international/sharik-stray-dog-shot-eye/>

July 2021: <https://www.oipa.org/international/azeri-protest-toplan-center/>

May 2021: <https://www.oipa.org/international/two-stray-dogs-killed-baku-airport/>

October 2020: <https://www.oipa.org/international/stray-dogs-in-azerbaijan-have-no-right-to-life/>

February 2020: <https://www.oipa.org/international/azerbaijan-help-five-saved-dogs/>

January 2020: <https://www.oipa.org/international/azerbaijan-toplan-dogs-killing-centre/>

July 2019: <https://www.oipa.org/international/azerbaijan-petition/>

May 2019: <https://www.oipa.org/international/azerbaijan-cull-stray-dogs/>

January 2019: <https://www.oipa.org/international/azerbaijan-culling-stray-dogs/>