

# NO TPP WHILE JAPAN SLAUGHTERS DOLPHINS!

In February 2014, celebrities and activists joined hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons in calling upon Ambassador Caroline Kennedy to ask President Obama to refuse to sign the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) until Japan bans the practice of drive hunt slaughter and capture of dolphins and porpoises, made infamous in the documentary *The Cove*. Their letter read:



We, the undersigned, ask you to personally deliver this petition to President Barack Obama urging him to NOT sign the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) until Japan bans the slaughter and capture of Dolphins in Taiji.

Following the graphic news reports on January 17th that five pods of Bottlenose dolphins were driven into

Taiji's infamous killing cove, leaving 40 slaughtered and 51 captured, people watching from around the world were left heartbroken. In the wake of this massacre, thousands expressed their gratitude to you for expressing your opposition to these killings and captures on social media. We join them in gratitude for your concern for the dolphins of Japan.

Images of the panicked Bottlenose (more than 250 in total-including a very rare white calf who may be blind and/or deaf) broke the hearts of millions, as they watched the live-streamed coverage, or viewed photographs taken by those present during the drive hunt. The widely-shared video documenting terrified families of dolphins clinging together as Taiji fisherman ran them over with their boats, cordoned them off with nets, and drove them towards the killing cove, has sparked an international outcry to end this brutality.

Since the start of this Taiji drive hunt season on September 1, 2013, over 600 dolphins have been slaughtered, and over 149 were taken captive, slated to live lonely, degrading, psychosis-inducing lives analogous to enslavement at amusement parks, as chronicled in the film "Blackfish". The drive hunt and slaughter of 20,000 dolphins, porpoises and small whales that occurs throughout Japan each year is Japan's shame. These barbaric drives, that began in 1969, must be stopped immediately.

We, the undersigned, are *not* using this petition to assert a position in regards to the TPP, rather we are underscoring that your influential voice in defense of the dolphins of Japan is instrumental in expressing to the White House the importance of making their slaughter and captive trade a key factor in the negotiations ahead. Corporations have spent the past two years marking-up the language of the TPP to serve their interests, should human compassion not be afforded the same privilege as business interests?

Although we understand that the negotiations have been quite lengthy, at this point, we feel the only way to end these heinous crimes against dolphins migrating through Japan's waters is to inject our position into the current conversation regarding the trade agreement.

The world is looking to you, Ambassador Kennedy, and to our government to send a clear message to Japan that this atrocity must be banned NOW.

For the dolphins, For all of humanity,

Russell Simmons & Simone Reyes

—with—

Sean Penn	Melissa Carbone /	Channing and Jenna Tatum
Mia Farrow	TTO Productions	Woody Harrelson
Sam Simon	Shannon Elizabeth	Pamela Anderson
Cher	Oliver Stone	Sharon Lawrence
Moby	Trevor Neilson / Global	William Shatner
Ann Wilson	Philanthropy Group	Tony Kanal
Emily Deschanel	Nathan Runkle / Mercy for	Gwyneth Paltrow
Ingrid Newkirk / PETA	Animals	Jennifer Aniston
Diane Warren	Ellen DeGeneres	Josh Gad
Courtney Love	Gene Baur / Farm Sanctuary	Nancy Wilson
Captain Paul Watson	Ian Somerhalder	John Salley
Susan Sarandon	Olivia Munn	Denise Richards
Chris DeRose /	Kellan Lutz	Ric O'Barry /
Last Chance for Animals	Shannen Doherty	The Cove /
Jennifer Hudson	Charlize Theron	The Dolphin Project
Nick Cannon	Cameron Diaz	Reverend Jesse Jackson
	Alicia Silverstone	

Unfortunately, President Obama has failed to respond to this request and has instead made major negotiating concessions to Japan in recent TPP negotiations. Moreover, secret TPP negotiating texts released by Wikileaks reveal a draft environmental chapter that not only does not require Japan to end the Taiji dolphin slaughter, but that also may undermine efforts to protect sharks and other wildlife.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

Email, call, fax, and write a letter to your US Representative and your Senators and ask them to tell President Obama that they will not vote for TPP if Japan does not agree to permanently ban the Taiji dolphin slaughter and if the TPP environmental chapter is not modified to include binding protections for wildlife and wildlife habitats beyond the inadequate protections in past trade agreements. Also ask them to oppose any legislation that would prevent members of Congress from making amendments to the TPP text to strengthen its protections for wildlife. You can find their names and contact info at <http://freetradekillsanimals.org/leg>.

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