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Germany

The Embassy of Japan  
Mr Toshiyuki Takano  
Ambassador of Japan  
Hiroshimastraße 6  
10785 Berlin

Weil der Stadt, November 2nd 2008

Honorable Ambassador,

we are students of a German Grammar School near Stuttgart/South Germany and members of our school's Project Group for Nature Conservation and Animal Welfare. A couple of days ago we saw graphic media coverage on German TV (ARD Tagesthemen) of the gruesome massacres of dolphins by Japanese fishermen at Taiji, with the carnage officially authorized by the Japanese Government. The sight of seeing these peaceful, majestic and intelligent creatures being so mercilessly stabbed to death from fishing boats with lances and harpoons and then dragged ashore to be left bleeding to death in agony or still being stabbed is an outright shame for a civilized and modern country like Japan! The atrocities against the Rissos dolphins are so much the more shameful since the footage also clearly reveals the dolphin hunt also serving as an opportunity of kidnapping dolphins from the wild to be sold at high prices to dolphinariums in foreign countries where these highly intelligent creatures have to suffer lifelong imprisonment to perform silly tricks for tourists.

The fact that a practice has long existed as a tradition i.c.w the dolphin hunt at Taiji does not mean it is ethically acceptable nor does it reveal serious concern for the safeguarding of biodiversity one would expect to be supported by a country hosting the last G8 summit.

The pictures as shown on German TV and as still available on the internet in numerous videos sadly reveal that civilization in modern Japan quite obviously still includes barbaric killing practices against our fellow-creatures and our planet's treasures. By officially authorizing the brutality and agony inflicted on the dolphins at Taiji the Japanese Government is definitely making a very sad and poor contribution to the efforts of educating children and youths around the world into ethically responsible and peaceful individuals of a civilized society.

We kindly request you to pass our outcry and strong protest against the barbaric slaughtering practices on these beautiful and intelligent sea mammals to the responsible politicians of your country.

Please help us make the world a better place and do everything in your power to put an end to the whale and dolphin massacres for good.

Sincerely,

Tina Hahl and the members of the

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<http://www.jkqweil.de/index.php?id=83>

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