

Tina Hahl
Project Group for Nature Conservation & Animal Welfare
Johannes-Kepler-Grammar School
Max-Caspar Straße 47
71263 Weil der Stadt
Germany

The Honorable Dr. Lawrence Gonzi
Prime Minister of Malta
Auberge de Castille
Valletta VLT 2000
Malta

September 23rd 2008

Honorable Prime Minister Dr.Gonzi,

we are contacting you to voice our deep concern about the ongoing slaughter of protected migratory bird species in The Maltese Islands. We are students of a the Project Group for Nature Conservation and Animal Welfare at a German Grammar School near Stuttgart and have been supporting wildlife and animal protection activities in Malta with International Animal Rescue (Malta) and its collaboration partners for many years. During our last visits to the Islands we came to notice the respectable efforts made by the Maltese Government to improve the situation for the environment and to fruitfully contribute to a holistic European concept to safeguard biodiversity. What struck us as extremely positive during our stays in Malta was what is being achieved in the law-enforcement sector i.c.w tackling environmental crime. We would like to point out that the dedicated commitment of the ALE team under Inspector Alexander Paul Miruzzi to protect European natural wildlife heritage during our stays was and is an outstanding experience for us and we were very thankful to be given the opportunity on our last visit to attend a very interesting lecture by the ALE team at GPHQ on how the Malta Police Force is working on wildlife protection.

We are currently in touch with our collaboration partners in Malta to keep ourselves informed about the progressing of the bird protection camps organized by IARM and German based CABS (Committee against Bird Slaughter). Given the dedication and efforts of the ALE team to protect the birds and support the bird guard teams in their field work ever since the beginning of the camps we are shocked to learn about the ongoing massive undisciplinedness of many hunters who by recklessly breaching the hunting regulations are undermining the work of the Police Force and all common efforts to protect biodiversity thus severely tarnishing the image of the country.

If nature conservation activities for the protection of biodiversity and environmental education at the schools all over Europe are to make any sense we would like to ask you to put hunting in Malta to an immediate stop and declare the hunting season closed. As politicians you have the power and responsibility to take the necessary steps to ensure the protection of biodiversity so we can work together on a brighter future for our planet and the future generations living on it.

We will be visiting Malta again in May 2009 and until then are looking fwd to your support in further improving the situation.

We are attaching a picture of our project group which was taken on the occasion of the launching of a regional activity plan to protect global biodiversity together with the Minister of Agriculture of Baden-Württemberg, the Honorable Minister Peter Hauk (2nd from right) and the Headmaster of our school, Dr. Rolf Bayer in April 2008.

Sincerely,

Tina Hahl and students

Mihada Bajrami
Lennart Bay
Leon Berliner
Julia & Felix Burkhardt
Jasmina Esslinger
Tim Mader
Lena-Marie Olbrich
Svenja & Anja Reimer
Sina Silberberger
Aileen Towhidi

**Project Group on Nature Conservation and Animal Welfare/Greenpeace Youths Team
Johannes-Kepler Grammar School
Max-Caspar-Straße 47
71263 Weil der Stadt
Germany
<http://www.jkqweil.de/index.php?id=83>**

Cc. The Honorable Minister Dr. Pullicino