

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

His Excellency Tahir Taghizadeh
Ambassador of Azerbaijan

Via e-mail: london@mission.mfa.gov.az

Dear Excellency,

I am writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) – one of the largest animal rights organisations in Europe, with hundreds of thousands of supporters – concerning reports that homeless dogs in Azerbaijan are being rounded up and killed in horrific ways to "cleanse" Baku's streets before the European Games this summer. We urge you to investigate, and if confirmed, do everything within your power to stop this reported cruel and senseless killing.

Recently, concerned members of the public contacted us with photos and film that apparently show piles of homeless dogs who were being burned by the dozen in makeshift incinerators in Baku. Piles of bones and fur burn while spewing black smoke into the air. You can see the video footage, taken in March 2015, [here](#).

This apparent extermination programme will not resolve the homeless-animal overpopulation crisis. Only a coordinated spay-and-neuter initiative can do that. Please do everything you can to put an end to this reported massacre, which will otherwise damage the reputation of Azerbaijan and tarnish the image of the European Games.

Thank you in advance for your time. I would be very grateful if I could hear from you on this subject. You can contact me at KirstyH@peta.org.uk or on 020 7837 6327 if you have any questions or would like more information. I look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully yours,

Kirsty Henderson
Campaign Coordinator

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