



Carmina Ballester  
Mayor of Onda

3 November de 2021

Via e-mail: [carmina@onda.es](mailto:carmina@onda.es)

Dear Ms Ballester:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) after reports that a man was gored to death during a bull run at the Fira d'Onda festival. This tragic death was preventable. We urge you to cancel all future bull-running and bull-fighting events in Onda immediately and instead host activities that don't involve live animals. PETA stands ready to help you make the switch.

The recklessness inherent in bull runs cannot be denied. They pose a risk of collisions, falls, broken legs, trampling, and other potentially fatal outcomes, as we saw last weekend, for everyone involved, which includes both participants and bystanders. If the events continue, it will only be a matter of time before another person is seriously injured or killed.

And while the human participants are warned of the very real danger, the bulls are not able to opt out. They are subjected to confusion and terror and also risk injury from crashing into barriers and walls, falling and breaking their legs, or colliding with each other.

Bullfights and bull festivals are a vestige of a far less enlightened time when people didn't understand that animals feel pain and thought nothing of risking fellow humans' safety. But society has evolved. Today, the vast majority of people around the world are opposed to entertainment that exploits animals and endangers humans. More than 125 Spanish towns and cities have rejected the tormenting and butchering of bulls for entertainment, and we hope you'll agree that it's time to add Onda to that list.

As opposition to events involving live bulls grows, towns are embracing new, non-violent traditions. This includes the "running of the balls", or *boloencierro*, in which gigantic balls tumble down hills as festival goers rush to stay ahead of them or to get out of their way. People have described it as an "Indiana Jones-esque adventure". While the giant balls can build up quite a lot of speed, they carry none of the risk of goring participants – and smaller versions of the balls are even suitable for children.

PETA would be happy to provide you with these gigantic balls, painted to look like bulls, for the town of Onda to enjoy its very own *boloencierro* festival – in exchange for ending the use of live bulls in Fira d'Onda. We hope you'll consider this humane, family-friendly

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PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL  
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Cannon Place, 78 Cannon Street,  
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Registered in England and Wales  
as charity number 1056453,  
company number 3135903.

#### Affiliates

- PETA US
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- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands



alternative, which would prevent inevitable injuries and deaths – and would put Onda on the map for all the right reasons.

We hope you'll accept our offer.

Sincerely,

Elisa Allen  
Director  
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)

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