
From: jeanpublic@yahoo.com
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2006 11:29 AM
To: frank.lautenberg@senate.gov; FSIS RegulationsComments
Subject: animal abuse going on at trenton slaughterhouse - fsis doing NOTHING about it

--- Susan Gordon <veganvirago@comcast.net> wrote:

> From: "Susan Gordon" <veganvirago@comcast.net>
> To: "Susan Gordon" <veganvirago@comcast.net>
> Subject: letters needed re: Trenton, NJ
> slaughterhouse
> Date: Tue, 24 Jan 2006 18:01:39 -0500
>
> PLEASE CROSS POST WIDELY
>
>
> Please write letters about this slaughterhouse,
> Trenton Halal Packing Co., and demand that the owner (Mohammad Malik)
> be charged and prosecuted for cruelty to animals and assault on a
> police officer, and that the business be permanently shut down.
>
>
> As noted below, Patrol Officer Alexis Durlacher
> described witnessing cows or bulls "screaming in
> pain as they were crushed to death by a metal grate
> that squeezed them against a concrete wall" inside
> the Trenton Halal Meat Packing Co. An un-named
> Sergeant arrived, ordering Malik to stop, after 2
> animals had already been tortured and killed, but
> Malik continued to torture a third. It is also noted
> that moaning animals can be forced to remain
> outside, in the truck, for hours in the summer heat.
> "Malik estimated that as many as 50,000 goats are
> slaughtered there per year, as well as lambs, steers
> and chickens."
>
>
>
> There are 2 articles, below, about this situation,
> preceded by contact info for letters. The more
> current article is first.
>
>
>
> ** NOTE: Do NOT, I repeat, do NOT, make anti-Muslim
> comments. Egregious cruelty is inherent in all slaughterhouses, but as
> 2 police officers (Officer Alexis Durlacher and an un-named Sergeant)
> witnessed the abuse at Trenton Halal Packing Co., we must
> demand that action be taken. There are evil and good
> people in all religions (and among those who
> practice no religion). The focus must be on the
> cruelty, not the religion of the alleged abusers.
>
>
>
> CONTACT INFO:
>

>
>
> (1). The name/address of the business is:
>
> Trenton Halal Packing Co.
>
> phone: (609) 394-0331
>
> 610 Roebling Ave (though article states it is 612)
>
> Trenton, NJ 08611
>
> Owner: Mohammad Malik
>
> If any of you are Muslim and can cite Muslim law
> promoting kindness to animals and, especially,
> vegetarianism, certainly mention this to Mr. Malik.
>
>
>
> (2). Submit letters to the Trenton Times to: letters@njtimes.com
>
>
>
> (3). Trenton City Council
>
> It appears that only one Council Person, Annette H.
> Lartigue (Council Vice President), has e-mail
> (westwardcouncil@aol.com). Please e-mail her and ask that she share
> your e-mail with the other 6 Council Members. As noted below, Officer
> Alexis Durlacher reported the animal torture she witnessed, and the
> attack on her person, directly to the City Council
> on January 19. Council President Paul Pintella told
> the officer that she should have arrested Malik. You
> can also send e-mails to the Council Members and to
> Mayor Douglas H. Palmer (the Mayor's chief of staff
> has said that "This is a priority issue") through
> the general e-mail address: webmaster@trentonnj.org.
> Just specify to whom the e-mail is going.
>
>
>
> The articles note that several residents have been
> pressuring the Council and Mayor to compel Malik to
> relocate the slaughterhouse, which has been there
> for decades, to a nonresidential setting. And
> Trenton's principal sanitary inspector said
> officials will try to craft an ordinance "limiting
> the amount of time trucks with live animals in them
> can sit outside the slaughterhouse." INSTEAD, URGE
> THAT THIS VILE BUSINESS BE SHUT DOWN AND THE OWNER PROSECUTED.
>
>
>
> (4). Mercer County Prosecutor
>
> Joseph L. Bocchini, Jr.
>
> Phone (609) 989-6305 or (609) 989-6350
>
> Their web site does not give an e-mail address or
> FAX number. You can try to e-mail them from their
> "Crime Stoppers Tip Information" page at <http://tinyurl.com/7qfml>.
> Where it asks for "INTERNET NUMBER," enter 803.
>
>
> Urge the prosecutor to levy all applicable charges

> and to seek maximum felony-level penalties. Malik
> should be prohibited from ever harboring or working,
> in any capacity, with animals, permanently. Also,
> urge that Pre-Trial intervention (which allows first
> time, non-violent, offenders to avoid prosecution)
> NOT be offered, as this IS a very violent crime.
>
>
>
> (5). Steven Cohen, spokesman for the USDA food,
> safety and inspection service, "would not say if
> there are any plans to investigate Durlacher's
> allegations. "A federal inspector told the city that
> the city has jurisdiction over the storage of
> animals outside the slaughterhouse. The city,
> however, has no jurisdiction over what goes on
> inside."
>
>
>
> Contact Steven Cohen and demand an investigation and shut-down of
> Trenton Halal Packing Co.:
>
> Steven Cohen, Senior Press Officer
>
> Food Safety and Inspection Service
>
> Phone: (202) 720-9113
>
> FAX: (202) 720-5704
>
>
>
> THANK YOU.
>
>
>
> *****
>
>
>
> <http://tinyurl.com/aszu5>
>
>
>
> Slaughterhouse denies inhumane practices
>
> Saturday, January 21, 2006
>
>
>
> TRENTON - The owner of Trenton Halal Packing Co.
> yesterday rebutted charges that animals are
> slaughtered in an inhumane manner at the Roebling
> Avenue facility.
>
>
>
> "We don't let them suffer," said Muhammad Malik, who
> has owned the Roebling Avenue slaughterhouse, which
> dates back to 1934, for 11 years. "We lift the
> animal, hang it up and slit its throat right away."
>
>
>
> He was responding to a city police officer's

> gruesome account of what she witnessed at the plant
> last week. The officer, Alexis Durlacher, was
> invited to a city council meeting Thursday, where
> she told council members of steers screaming in pain
> as they were crushed to death by a metal grate that
> squeezed them against a concrete wall.
>
>
>
> Malik's son-in-law, Ahmed Bajwa, said no animal is
> treated cruelly at the facility. "We have respect
> for these animals. That's really wrong saying we
> crushed them. That hurts our feelings, too."
>
>
>
> Both men spoke in the plant's office at 612 Roebling
> Ave. yesterday afternoon while goats were being
> slaughtered farther inside. Video displays on a
> flat-panel computer monitor showed two men lifting
> each animal and hanging it by a rear hoof. Another
> man slit its throat. The entire process took about 5
> seconds per goat.
>
>
>
> Malik pointed to a man in a white hardhat who
> examined every goat carcass and identified him as a
> U.S. Department of Agriculture inspector. He said an inspector must be
> on hand for slaughtering to occur.
>
>
>
>
> But on rare occasions, including around Muslim holy
> days, Trenton Halal can slaughter animals without an inspector
> present, but only with prior written permission from federal
> authorities, Malik said.
>
>
>
> Concerning the horrible scene Durlacher described to
> city council members, Malik said three steers were
> in holding pens awaiting slaughter when the officer
> arrived around 8 p.m. on Jan. 9.
>
>
>
> Durlacher had been dispatched to Chestnut Avenue to investigate a
> noise complaint, but immediately concluded the source of the noise was
> several blocks away at the slaughterhouse.
>
>
>
> Malik said some animals cry out prior to slaughter
> while others stand silently. But he disputed that
> any animal making noise inside the plant would be
> heard down the street.
>
>
>
> Johanna Moreno, who lives directly across the street
> from the plant, said she has not heard "much noise"
> at all in the 1 1/2 years she has lived there. "We
> don't have any problems with them."
>

>
>
> Because of the size of a steer, workers stun those
> animals with an electrode before it is raised in the
> air by a back leg. Malik said.

>
>
> "We use stun guns for the bulls," said Emad Taha,
> who spoke yesterday during a short break from
> slaughtering goats. With each animal, he says a
> prayer out loud before slitting its throat, Taha
> said.

>
>
> The prayer is "Bismillah. Allah hu akbar. Allah hu
> akbar. Allah hu akbar." It means, "In the name of
> God. God is great. God is Great. God is great."

>
>
> Durlacher stood by her story yesterday afternoon. On
> Jan. 9, she walked into the slaughterhouse twice,
> she said. The first time she saw three bulls in
> pens. After resuming a sometimes heated discussion
> with Malik in the company office, she heard a scream
> and went back to the holding pens, she said.

>
>
> Durlacher then saw that one bull had been killed,
> one was standing in a pen and another "was suspended
> against the wall with its legs off the ground,
> screaming. Why would I make that up?"

>
>
> The officer said she heard a loud noise when she
> arrived at the plant. Malik yesterday said that
> noise was an air compressor, not an animal in agony.
> But according to Durlacher, "the compressor was
> moving a grate up against the animal" with enough
> force to pin it against a concrete wall and lift it
> off the ground.

>
>
> She also said there was no inspector present. Malik
> said yesterday he had permission from inspectors to
> slaughter because of the upcoming Eid-ul-Adha Muslim
> festival of sacrifice.

>
>
> Steven Cohen, spokesman for the USDA food, safety
> and inspection service, said Trenton Halal is
> operating its normal and custom slaughter operations
> within federal regulations, and has never been cited
> for any inhumane methods.

>
>
> Federal inspections are continuous at
> slaughterhouses, with at least one inspector
> assigned to a plant during normal business hours, he

> said.
>
>
>
> In normal slaughters, inspectors look for the way
> the animals are unloaded, that they have access to
> water if kept in pens, that they are not treated in
> a way that causes them stress, the slaughter method
> and that the slaughter is done correctly.
>
>
>
> Inspectors are not assigned for custom slaughters,
> Cohen said. Under such slaughters, an animal is
> killed for the personal use of the owner of the
> animal, not for sale. A company is still expected to
> comply with sanitation regulations and humane
> slaughter procedures, Cohen said.
>
>
>
> Crushing an animal to death is not considered a
> humane method, he said.
>
>
>
> Cohen would not say if there are any plans to
> investigate Durlacher's allegations.
>
>
>
> "We do follow up on information that is forwarded to
> us from citizens and public officials," Cohen said.
>
>
>
> "If the city government was concerned about
> something that was taking place at one of our
> regulated facilities, we will look into it."
>
>
>
> East Ward Councilman Geno Melone said he has
> received numerous complaints from nearby residents
> and business owners about what goes on outside the slaughterhouse.
>
>
>
> "Everything from storing the animals on that street
> for hours and hours and hours. They're out there in
> multiple trucks, in the summer heat, with the stench
> and the moaning of the animals in those trucks,"
> Melone said. Some constituents have complained about slaughterhouse
> employees and customers "carrying slaughtered and skinned animals over
> their shoulder in plain view of children and residents."
>
>
>
> Jimmy Kamies, owner of Amici Milano, a popular
> Chambersburg restaurant located across the street
> from the slaughterhouse, said he has had many
> problems with Malik's trucks blocking his parking
> lots and hitting customers' cars. He said
> slaughterhouse customers routinely use his
> restaurant's parking lot.
>

>
>
> Kamies also agreed with Melone that animals
> sometimes sit in trucks for up to half a day.
>
>
>
> But Bajwa disputed that, saying that many of the
> animals are trucked from a farm in Burlington County
> and workers are ready to process them as soon as
> they arrive.
>
>
>
> Melone was happy to learn from a federal inspector
> yesterday that the city has jurisdiction over the
> storage of animals outside the slaughterhouse. The
> city, however, has no jurisdiction over what goes on
> inside.
>
>
>
> "We'll be meeting with the legal department to draft
> an ordinance to meet the concerns of residents,"
> Melone said.
>
>
>
> Martin Moore, Trenton's principal sanitary
> inspector, who met with Melone and the federal
> inspector yesterday, said officials will try to
> craft an ordinance "limiting the amount of time
> trucks with live animals in them can sit outside the slaughterhouse.
> And we talked about limiting the slaughterhouse hours of operation
> from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m."
>
>
>
> Melone has been pushing for the city to find an
> alternate location for the slaughterhouse, which is
> located in a residential and restaurant district.
>
>
>
> Malik said he would be open to such discussions, but
> said such efforts failed to produce an acceptable
> alternative site several years ago.
>
>
>
> Melone said a slaughterhouse would not be allowed to
> open in the neighborhood today. Trenton Halal does
> not conform to the present zoning but has a
> "grandfather" exception because it was operating
> legally on the site before zoning rules were
> changed. It started out decades ago as a
> "mom-and-pop slaughterhouse, but now it's an
> industrial operation," Melone said.
>
>
>
> Malik estimated that as many as 50,000 goats are
> slaughtered there per year, as well as lambs, steers
> and chickens.
>
>

>
> NOTE: Contact Joseph Dee at jdee@njtimes.com or
> (609) 989-5704.
>
>
>
> © 2006 The Times of Trenton
>
> © 2006 NJ.com All Rights Reserved.
>
>
>
> *****
>
> <http://tinyurl.com/atgx4>
>
>
>
> Slaughter horrors recounted
>
> Friday, January 20, 2006
>
> By JOSEPH DEE
>
> Staff Writer
>
>
>
> TRENTON - Members of city council listened almost in disbelief
> yesterday as a city police officer told of her harrowing and
> infuriating encounter with the owner of a controversial slaughterhouse
> located in the Chambersburg section.
>
>
>
> Patrol Officer Alexis Durlacher described witnessing
> cows or bulls being crushed to death against a
> concrete wall inside the Trenton Halal Meat Packing
> Co., screaming in pain as their bones snapped.
>
>
>
> Durlacher said she was responding to a noise
> complaint on Chestnut Avenue about 8 p.m. on Jan. 9
> when her ears and nose drew her to the nearby
> slaughterhouse at 610 Roebling Ave.
>
>
>
> Once there, she said, she heard animals screaming
> and saw blood running across the sidewalk into the
> street.
>
>
>
> The officer said she was unsure of the laws
> governing the humane slaughter of animals but
> ordered owner Mohammad Malik to stop.
>
>
>
> Durlacher said Malik swore at her, accused her of
> harassment based on religious bigotry and sprayed
> her with the hose he used to clean the sidewalk of
> blood.
>

>
>
> She said she did not arrest him, even though he was
> taunting her to do so. Council President Paul
> Pintella said she should have. "This blatant
> disrespect is intolerable. You should have slapped
> cuffs on him," he said.
>
>
>
> Malik, who is Muslim, allegedly accused Durlacher of
> a "Christian bias." In an interview after the
> council meeting, she said she didn't bother telling
> him she is Jewish, not Christian, because religion
> had nothing to do with her actions.
>
>
>
> Efforts to reach Malik by phone and at the
> slaughterhouse last night were unsuccessful.
>
>
>
> Durlacher was invited to the council meeting by East
> Ward Councilman Geno Melone, in whose ward the
> slaughterhouse is located. It is in a residential neighborhood
> opposite a popular Chambersburg restaurant, Amici Milano.
>
>
>
> Several residents have been pressuring the council
> and Mayor Douglas H. Palmer to compel Malik to
> relocate the slaughterhouse, which has been there
> for decades, to a nonresidential setting.
>
>
>
> "Animals were screaming," Durlacher said. "Blood was
> running across the sidewalk out to the street. It
> smelled like a farm. Meanwhile, customers were going
> into Amici's.
>
>
>
> Once inside the slaughterhouse, Durlacher said she
> was horrified to see how the animals were being
> killed. "They were compressing them with this metal
> thing. You could hear its bones being crushed. It
> was absolutely horrible."
>
>
>
> Durlacher said a sergeant arrived at the scene and
> also ordered Malik to stop after the second cow or
> bull was killed. The patrol officer said her car was
> blocking the end of a truck where a third animal
> could be kept overnight, but when she returned
> inside, Malik had already begun crushing it.
>
>
>
> "There was no inspector on site," Melone said. "It
> is my understanding that an inspector has to be on
> site when slaughtering takes place."
>
>
>

>
> Lt. Paul Mussina, who also attended the meeting last
> night, told council members Malik argued that no
> inspector is necessary when workers are conducting
> "ritual" killing for religious holidays.
>
>
>
> He said city police and administration officials are scheduled to meet
> with a federal inspector today to discuss the slaughterhouse and all
> applicable regulations.
>
>
>
> "This is a priority issue," said Palmer's chief of
> staff, Renee Haynes.
>
>
>
> NOTE: Contact Joseph Dee at jdee@njtimes.com or
> (609) 989-5704.
>
>
>
> © 2006 The Times of Trenton
>

Do You Yahoo!?
Tired of spam? Yahoo! Mail has the best spam protection around
<http://mail.yahoo.com>