

For Immediate Release

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WFL Endangered Stream Live

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Temporary Reprieve for Baby Seals of Namibia

Although the government has called for the slaughter to begin today, July 1st, Hatem Yavuz who represents the Namibia sealing industry has agreed to not begin killing seals for 7 days while funds are raised for the buyout. In a desperate attempt to save the baby seals Hugo has successfully negotiated that beginning on the 8th day, a daily deposit of \$15,000 will keep the sealers at bay for another week while enough pledges are collected to for the \$14 million buyout of the industry.

This is a one time opportunity to buy out the industry that holds all sealing rights/ licenses to killing these babies for the next 10 years. Seal Alerts calculates that in sum at least 910,000 seal will die, which will surely wipe out this endangered species.

Pledges for the buy-out of the sealers are flooding in from individuals and supporting organizations from around the world, among the highest pledges so far, \$150, 000 (US) has been pledged by a former merchant banker in Australia. Supreme Master Ching Hai, who is a renowned humanitarian, spiritual leader, and artist; has not only donated \$100,000 (US) but has insisted that the funds be available now and not to wait until other pledges come in for the buyout.

Seal Alert-SA's international campaign to raise the cash, has seen an overwhelming support for this buy-out at \$15 a seal's life. A concept or solution never before attempted to end seal hunts. "The problem, is that I am a tiny, one-man organization, who has no big mass emailing lists or infrastructure to reach millions of anti-seal hunt supporters overnight around the world. It will take time to reach out, time the seal pups in Namibia don't have," says Francois Hugo, Seal Alert SA.

Job redevelopment plans for the otherwise indigent & migrant workers who club the seals and work at the sealing industry plants are part of the legal details included in the buyout agreement.

WFLF and WFL Endangered Stream Live condemn all cruelty to animals. "I deplore crime and all cruelty to animals is a crime from my perspective," states, Katia Louise of WFLF. Katia Louise has compared this situation to that of a loved-one being held for ransom and asked, "If this were about a human, a loved one that any one of us cared about and there was a ransom required to save their life, would we say, no; I won't give money to recue - go ahead, kill my baby, or my mom or whoever it is... of course not." In another statement made by Ms Louise, she said, "We as animal lovers, advocates and activists value the individual life of each sentient being the same that we do our own kind and therefore should consider all types of rescue possibilities for saving the lives of these baby seals."

Seal Alert-SA has asked the international anti-seal hunt organizations to post information about this buyout on their websites to allow each of their own supporters to each make up their own minds,

whether they want to pledge an amount to privately stop the seal hunt in Namibia, and help save the seals from clubbing.

The public offer made by Seal Alert-SA to the Namibian sealers is dependent upon the Sealing Industry upholding its side of the agreement to not kill seals for the first 7 days of the sealing season, which officially starts July 1st.

All pledges of support are to be sent directly to Seal Alert SA at sasealion@wam.co.za Other details of the agreement will be discussed with serious investors.

To learn more, listen to the special radio broadcast, Seals of Namibia at WFL Endangered Stream Live.

Visit the show and resource page covering this issue
at <http://www.wflendangeredstreamlive.org/namibianseals.html>

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