



NONHUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT

June 29, 2020

Expert Committee to the
Islamabad Wildlife Management Board
Islamabad
Pakistan

THE NONHUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT URGES THIS COMMITTEE TO SEND THE ELEPHANT KAAVAN TO A SANCTUARY IN CAMBODIA

Dear Respected Chairman-IWMB, Committee Chair, Committee Co-chair, and Members,

The Nonhuman Rights Project (“NhRP”) is a twenty-five year old US-based civil rights organization dedicated to advancing the legal rights of nonhuman animals. To date, the NhRP has filed nine habeas corpus cases seeking the fundamental right to bodily liberty on behalf of chimpanzees and elephants in the United States. We are assisted in our litigation by the world’s most-respected chimpanzee and elephant experts. As the NhRP demonstrates in its lawsuits, both are highly deserving of fundamental legal rights as they possess extraordinarily complex and near-human cognition that renders them autonomous and self-determining and allows them to lead complex intellectual, emotional, and social lives. Our habeas corpus litigation seeking the release of an Asian elephant named Happy against the Bronx Zoo in New York City and her transfer to a sanctuary was cited approvingly by Justice Minallah in his decision. W.P. No.1155/2019 at 12.

This Committee is charged with the great responsibility of finding a suitable sanctuary for Kaavan. Kaavan has been long deprived of his autonomy and his ability to self-determine and he has long been deprived of his ability to lead a complex intellectual, emotional, and social life. This Committee should be looking at one thing only: what sanctuary will allow this long-suffering autonomous being to live as normal an elephant life as possible? There are no other issues.

Having conferred with the elephant experts with whom we have worked for years, the NhRP understands that by far the best sanctuaries for an elephant such as Kaavan are in Cambodia.

Please treat us as a resource if we can be of any help whatsoever.

Warm regards,
Steven M. Wise
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