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Exposed: New Shameful Vision of Romanian Exported Sheep Killed in the Middle East

Animals International – Romania publishes today fresh evidence showing horrific cruelty endured by sheep exported alive to Middle East. The vision¹ was obtained in Jordan during the last festival of sacrifice in improvised slaughterhouses and on the streets. The organization also found out that Romanian farmers give away their sheep for 100-200 lei, while these animals are being sold in Jordan up to 1000 lei (200 JOD).

“For the 5th year in a row I have personally witnessed the failure of the Romanian Government to be legally and ethically responsible for its exported sheep. They continue to be abandoned to brutal and at times, sadistic treatment in other countries,” said Gabriel Paun, EU Director of Animals International.

This shameful trade attracts worldwide scorn. Civilised and caring countries are turning their backs on live export. Since shocking cruelty on Australian live export ships was exposed in April 2018², this awful trade has been stopped in its tracks — sparing hundreds of thousands of Australian sheep from the horrors of live export.

“I have not seen a single Australian animal killed in the streets of Jordan this year. I have only seen terrified Romanian sheep dragged and beaten before having their throats brutally cut in the dirt. No animal deserves such a terrible death. Romanian sheep are also being bought, tied up and crammed into suffocating car boots only to have their throats crudely cut at private homes,” Paun explained.

The reason that Australian animals started to disappear in third countries is that live export not only hurts animals—it hurts its economy. Jobs were being lost in their meat processing sector while importing countries were getting the benefit of live animals. Jordan is already on its journey to switch from live imports to carcasses imports. Bahrain is an importing country that has already completely replaced live animal export with value-added meat products, and the trade is flourishing.

“The solution is simple and would protect animals, people, jobs, the environment and prevent spreading catastrophic diseases. All that Romania has to do is to start replacing live export with trading carcasses. We will not rest until this is done. Meanwhile, animals have a fate worse than death while greedy trading corporations sell them in the Middle East 5 times more expensive than they buy it in Romania,” Paun concluded.

Animals International calls on the Romanian Agriculture Ministry to replace live export of sheep with carcasses.

The organization is currently investigating slaughter of Romanian cattle as well and will present the evidence in the upcoming period.

MEDIA CONTACT: Gabriel Paun | enquiries@animalsinternational.org

¹ <https://animalsaustralia-media.org/uploads/eid-romanian-sheep-2018/>

² <https://animalsaustralia-media.org/uploads/live-sheep-export/>