

His Excellency Prayut Chan-o-cha
Prime Minister of Thailand

Dear Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha:

My appreciation, love, and respect for the world's wildlife has led me across the globe on a quest to help the planet's most vulnerable species. From elephants, to sharks, to tigers, all species are worthy of protection, and many of these remarkable animals call Thailand home.

I'm assured that Thailand respects its wildlife. However, how a country acts on cruelty speaks volumes, and I'm confident that after hearing the cruelty behind forced selfies with big cats, you will do all you can to ban them.

My friends at Lady Freethinker recently investigated facilities in Thailand where tigers, lions, and ligers are being forced to take photos with guests and tourists. The investigation found extreme cruelty to these exceptional animals.

The video showing tigers chained tightly to concrete and other big cats pacing in small, barren enclosures with murky green water is a disgrace to these incredible animals, who are protective of their families, enjoy bathing in streams and rivers, and are also on the brink of extinction.

Footage also shows lions and ligers chained to the ground with hardly any room to move. The animals lowered their heads in fear when handlers raised their fists at them. These extraordinary beings are often ripped away from their families at young ages and deprived of all that is natural and important to them. All for a "selfie."

With Thailand's beautiful beaches, waterfalls, and National Parks, there's no reason for the country to rely on cruelty to animals for tourism dollars. Thailand has a chance to take a great stand against animal cruelty by banning forced photo opportunities with big cats, and I urge you to do what is right and forbid selfies with these remarkable animals for good.

I appreciate your attention to this urgent matter. Please reach me through my friend Emily at Lady Freethinker by emailing Emily@Ladyfreethinker.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Blake Moynes". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Blake" and "Moynes" being capitalized and prominent.

Blake Moynes