

**4 June 2014**

To: The Editor

We refer to the death of the bottlenose dolphin Sharmila on 11 May 2014. We note with regret that it has become the fourth dolphin death linked to the Marine Life Park at the Resorts World Sentosa (RWS).

Subjecting these wild dolphins to a forced lifestyle in captivity, tamed against their will and introducing paid interaction programmes with the public marketed as “engagement learning”, is, in essence, unabashed animal exploitation.

Let us take a cue from the National Aquarium in Baltimore, the USA, as well as Italian dolphinarium Delfinario Rimini which have, in very recent weeks, been cited in the foreign media over the impending end of their respective dolphin shows. For that matter, there are many nations as exemplified by the United Kingdom and Brazil which do not hold cetaceans, including dolphins, in captivity, Italy which has banned swim-with-dolphin programmes and Chile which has prohibited the commercial display of all cetaceans. In a country like Singapore, with the Wild Animals and Birds Act in place prohibiting any person from killing, taking or keeping any wild animal, it is extremely disappointing that we are accepting these wild-caught dolphins for the purpose of forcing them to adapt to an unnatural lifestyle in RWS' Marine Life Park attraction.

We urge RWS to release the remaining 23 wild-caught dolphins and end the exploitation of these animals. The act of catching and confining these animals, in limited spaces and training them to become something they are not, cannot possibly contribute towards constructive education of the public on marine life and environmental issues.

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