

SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

(In association with R.S.P.C.A. England) Patroness: LADY Y.P. McNEICE



10 December 2010

The Editor
You
The New Paper

Dear Sir,

I refer to the article 'Toro Terror' (The New Paper, 10 December). As much as bullfighting may be viewed as "...actually an activity wrapped with Spanish history" as quoted by TLC Globe Trekker host Ian Wright, it is a cruel and barbaric sport which should not be justified.

For those who have not witnessed a bullfight first-hand, it is a spectacle in which the bull endures taunting, piercing of its neck and shoulder muscles with a lance (this is carried out by men on horseback called picadors) and being speared with metal-tipped banderilleras which remain embedded. Following these attacks, and suffering weakened muscles and excessive loss of blood, the bewildered and groggy animal faces the matador, who at this point comes into the ring for the one-sided battle tipped in his favour.

Cheered on by audience, the matador, cape in hand, taunts and teases the wounded and disoriented bull, until the moment arrives for the final violent thrust by the matador's sword, which may or may not be accurate the first time round.

Torturing and killing an animal in an arena for entertainment, should not be considered a sport today. Traditions evolve in more enlightened times.

In July this year it was announced that lawmakers in Catalonia had outlawed bullfighting, making it Spain's first major region to do so. The ban will take effect from 2012. The SPCA here, can only hope that this will become nation wide in time to come.

Yours sincerely

Deirdre Moss (Ms)
Executive Director