



September 8, 2020

His Excellency Joko Widodo  
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Your Excellency,

I'm writing on behalf of Hong Kong-based People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and our more than 4 million members and supporters around the world, including many in Indonesia, regarding our latest investigation into the kopi luwak industry and its relation to public health concerns.

As the coronavirus tightens its grip on Indonesia and the rest of the world, people are becoming increasingly alarmed by businesses involving wild-caught animals. Some of those fears can be allayed by shutting down the kopi luwak industry immediately.

When PETA investigators recently visited several Indonesian kopi luwak farms, they found civet cats, often caught in the wild and then released back or sold to live-animal markets when they become sick, are confined to barren, filthy cages caked with feces, dirt, and decomposing berries. These squalid conditions can spread deadly diseases. The investigators also went to a live-animal market, where potentially sick civet cats are sold, and saw how easily they could spread deadly diseases to other animals, including humans. As you know, the SARS virus circulated in caged civet cats before it was transmitted to humans.

PETA's investigators also documented shocking cruelty and neglect at every farm. Civets are nocturnal animals, but when caged outdoors, they struggle to sleep during the day and keep themselves cool. Many civets had sustained deep, painful wounds from biting their own tails, while others paced back and forth repeatedly in their cramped cages—clear indications that they were experiencing acute psychological distress. One civet with cloudy eyes who appeared to be blind was still caged and forced to eat coffee berries.

Our findings can be viewed [here](#).

The kopi luwak industry also raises other concerns. While the coffee is often promoted as "wild-sourced," one farmer told an investigator that it would be nearly impossible to produce it exclusively in such a manner. Instead, the industry deliberately mislabels coffee from captive animals. The producer admitted that a small amount of feces from wild civets is mixed with feces from caged animals and fraudulently sold as wild-sourced.

That amounts to three strikes against the industry: Kopi luwak farms can spread deadly diseases, the industry's egregious cruelty tarnishes Indonesia's global standing, and its unethical business model is simply unacceptable.

For the sake of *everyone's* health, will you please place a permanent ban on kopi luwak farms?

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jason Baker  
Senior Vice President of International Campaigns  
PETA

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