



President Lee Myung Bak
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Dear President Lee,

There are fewer than 20 Asiatic Black Bears roaming the Korean wild today, and they are kept in a highly monitored region and marketed as a tourist attraction.

In contrast to their numbers in the wild, a staggering 1600 suffer in terribly inhumane, highly unregulated conditions at bear bile farms, awaiting slaughter. This is due to the practice of bear bile farming and the demands of traditional Asian medicine. This barbaric trade was initiated by the Korean government in the 1980s. Instead of taking initiative to create a solution for this urgent issue, Korea is turning a blind eye and allowing a dying practice to continue.

Korea remains one of 2 countries to allow this gruesome trade to continue, despite the safe and affordable option of artificial ursodeoxycholic acid (bear bile's prized component), and its 64 herbal alternatives (Animal Concerns and Research Society).

The demand for bear gall has inspired a lucrative black market ring which has infiltrated neighbouring countries, preying upon often uneducated citizens.

Korea needs a sanctuary, and the government is morally, financially and ethically obliged to support it.

Bear bile farming is an archaic and unethical practice. It has no place in modern medicine or responsible commerce.

Korea's bile farms are counter productive to a country that prides itself on being a responsible and enlightened player in the global community. It's time for Korea to experience change.

We can improve the future for bears and people in Korea. On behalf of a suffering species, please take measures to end bear bile farming in Korea now.

Respectfully,

Phone:
email: