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Animal rights activists decry export of live sheep, goats to Gulf by air, write to Maharashtra CM

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NAVI MUMBAI: The Federation of Indian Animals Protection Organizations (FIAPO) has written a letter to the Maharashtra chief minister's office (CMO) with regards to the cruel export of over 3600 live sheep and goats to Sharjah, via the Nashik based airport since the first day of new year.

FIAPO has urged the state government to immediately stop such livestock exports to the Gulf, where the dazed and confounded animals are ultimately slaughtered for meat.

"Export of live animals is extremely cruel, as the animals undergo neglect, suffering and many die on their way to the destination. Such treatment of animals does not befit our culture. This export is also taking place without fulfilling any documentation, guideline, formalities and without following mandatory procedure laid out by Indian law. It is hence illegal, and violates various provisions of our laws," stated the FIAPO letter to CMO.

"Additionally, Nashik airport does not have mandatory quarantine facilities where animals can be kept, observed, and cared for. They are left in open, no health certificates from certified veterinarians have been provided and transport guidelines have not been followed. All the aforesaid guidelines are flouted and are being taken for granted. Despite having strong animal protection laws, live export from India is a mockery of the lives of these animals as well as the statute. We urge you to be sensitive to the unnecessary suffering of lakhs of animals being sent out of the country," further states the FIAPO letter.

Navi Mumbai based advocate Siddh Vidya commented: "I had recently succeeded in stopping the Gujarat