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Lawyer-activist alleges slow police response to tip-off

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NAVI MUMBAI: Advocate Siddh Vidya who is also a member of the Animal Welfare Board of Maharashtra, has written to the Navi Mumbai police authorities about her personal experience while trying to inform and call the local police officials to the spot where she had noticed a vehicle suspected to be illegally transporting animals.

"On Friday morning while I was driving back home to Seawoods Estate, I noticed a vehicle inside which a strong smell of animals was emanating. Also, animal droppings were falling out of this vehicle on the main road; hence I immediately called up the NRI police station which is just a stone's throw away from this spot, close to the NMMC head office," said Vidya.

She further added that due to heavy traffic at the time, the suspect vehicle was stuck at the red traffic signal for over 10-12 minutes; but still no police official reached the spot. "I also told a traffic police official on duty to stop this suspect vehicle, since it could be illegally ferrying animals for slaughter. However, he too did not help me. I can identify this traffic cop if asked to do so by the Navi Mumbai police, after my written complaint reaches them," added the lawyer-activist.

Much to her dismay, the suspect vehicle then soon took a left turn to move towards Ulwe, without any police

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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