

Dear Ambassador,

On behalf of the millions of people worldwide, who support Greenpeace and share our goal of ending whaling in the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary, we are petitioning you to raise the issue of the political prosecution of two Greenpeace activists in Japan for exposing large scale corruption within the Japanese government-sponsored whaling programme.

December 10th is the 60th anniversary of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Greenpeace supporters are using this opportunity to draw attention to our two colleagues, Junichi Sato and Toru Suzuki, who were arrested on June 20th 2008 after delivering evidence of embezzlement of whale meat from the whaling fleet to the Tokyo District Prosecutor. They spent 26 days in custody before being charged. Currently they are on bail, but are under restrictions on where they can go and who they can associate with.

As you may be aware, Sato Junichi and Suzuki Toru were arrested for removing a box of whale meat from a package delivery depot in Aomori, on the 16th April, on suspicion of theft and trespassing. The box was one of four being shipped from a crewman on the Nisshin Maru, to his home address. The shipment was labelled as containing cardboard. When opened it proved to contain 23.5 kg of high quality salted whale meat with an estimated value of US\$ 3,000.

Your governments' whaling programme is the focus of repeated international condemnation. Taxpayer's money is being used to prop up a programme that is neither economically viable, nor politically beneficial. Recently one of your own government advisors, Tomohiko Taniguchi was quoted in the Sydney Morning Herald as saying: "The Japanese whaling industry generates revenues of 7.5 billion yen a year, which is \$120 million at the current exchange rate. It's tiny." He added: "Japan has nil national interest in the whaling industry. Japan's economy, the world' second biggest, has an annual output of 515 trillion yen. So whaling accounts for 0.0014 per cent of the national economy. Or less than one-tenth the value of the country's annual market for toothbrushes."

Your own Prime Minister was also quoted making fun of the so-called science of the programme, saying: "Has anyone heard of any scientific results coming from Japan's whaling program?"

As with the Japanese whaling programme in the Southern Ocean, the unnecessary detention of the Greenpeace activists for exposing corruption within the system, has gained global attention. It is an essential principle of democracy that those who act to expose wrongdoing should not be subject to intimidation or harassment, no matter how powerful the forces are that they oppose.

We therefore kindly urge you to request the Japanese Authorities to drop all charges against Junichi Sato and Toru Suzuki and that a full public investigation into the question of stolen whale meat shall be immediately undertaken.

If Junichi Sato and Toru Suzuki are being charged and tried in Japan for exposing illegal whale meat embezzlement in order to protect whales unnecessarily killed in the Japanese Government's so-called "research whaling" programme in the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary, then arrest us too; because we fully support what they did.

Sincerely,