

CHEN Li

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of Finland

Your Excellency,

We in Animalia Bear Group are deeply concerned for the animals, including a polar bear, imprisoned in the Grandview Mall Aquarium, also known as "the saddest zoo in the world", in Guangzhou, China. We respectfully beg you to use your influence to close down the aquarium and ensure the welfare of the animals.

The zoo and aquarium are part of a gigantic shopping mall, and the animals are kept in glass boxes in completely unnatural conditions without even the joy of seeing sunlight, let alone having any stimuli to make their imprisonment more tolerable. Many animals there have died prematurely, the rest are languishing in misery.

Several worldwide animal welfare organizations have collected approximately a million signatures to a petition urging Grandview Aquarium to free the animals. As there is no animal welfare legislation in China, the zoo is not doing anything illegal. This is something we ask you to change in China.

Animals Asia, our Asian partner organisation, has had several meetings with the staff of the aquarium, and some of their advice on ways to improve the welfare of the animals have been followed. However, real change will only come about from within China and by way of changing the attitudes of the Chinese public and the legislation concerning animal welfare.

According to the latest information Pizza polar bear will soon be rehoused to the park where he was born, but only temporarily. In our view that is not enough. Rehousing must be permanent and Grandview Mall Zoo and Aquarium must be closed as soon as possible.

We urge you to take a stand against cruelty to animals and do all in your power to help the innocent prisoners in Grandview Aquarium.

Respectfully yours,