



10 Year Campaign Saves Tel Aviv's Horses

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TEL AVIV, Israel, November 12, 2009 /PRNewswire via COMTEX/ -- CHAI and Hakol Chai's campaign to ban cart horses in Tel Aviv, and eventually around the country, achieved its first goal with the banning of horse-drawn carts from Tel Aviv streets. For over a decade, CHAI and its sister charity in Israel, Hakol Chai, pressured the Tel Aviv municipality to regulate, and later ban horses pulling heavily-laden carts through city streets. These animals are often starved, beaten, made to work in the hot sun without water, and not provided with veterinary care. CHAI was the first organization to raise this issue and the first to campaign to ban horse-drawn carts.

CHAI's first presented its concerns to city officials in 1999, then exposed abuse, rescued and rehabilitated abused horses and shut down a major abuser who hacked live horses apart with an axe and sold the meat as cow meat. When he reopened in 2003, Hakol Chai organized a raid and closed him down permanently.

In 2005, Hakol Chai's attorney wrote to the Ministry of Transportation, the Tel Aviv Mayor, and other Mayors around the country to raise awareness of the issue and call for a ban. Hakol Chai also organized an international letter writing campaign to officials and plastered the city with posters urging the public to press the city to take action.

Hakol Chai's written proposal to the City Council resulted in the Council holding a special meeting on the issue, while outside, Hakol Chai protesters staged a demonstration. In 2008, 350 supporters of Hakol Chai's campaign attended a Tel Aviv protest concert at which popular Israeli singers volunteered to perform, as part of the international coalition Horses Without Carriages International. Protesters also blocked the entrance to City Hall and handed out hundreds of flyers on one of the city's busiest streets.

Tel Aviv's Mayor finally issued a ban, and Hakol Chai will continue to press Mayors of other cities to do the same. Said CHAI's Director, Nina Natelson, "We are pleased that, at long last, there will no longer be sights of thin, injured, beaten cart horses in Tel Aviv, and we will press Mayors of other cities in Israel to issue similar bans."

Hakol Chai, visit our website at <http://www.chai-online.org>

For additional information, photos and interviews:

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