

15 May 2018

Who are the activists who try to prohibit the export of almost \$ 1 bi in live cattle from Brazil?



Who are the activists who try to prohibit the export of almost \$ 1 bi in live cattle from Brazil?

Who are the activists who try to prohibit the export of almost \$ 1 bi in live cattle from Brazil?

Leandro Machado BBC Brazil - São Paulo 15 May 15:35



The export of live cattle grew 42% in 2017 and handled R \$ 800 million, according to the association of exporters

Almost all 70 seats in the Teotônio Vilela auditorium were occupied, rarity in sessions in the small room of the Legislative Assembly of São Paulo. One deputy warned: "The following scenes are strong, maybe someone will be scared." On the big screen was shown a video showing the interior of a ship with thousands of live oxen. The animals were heaped together, some with part of their body plunged into a thick layer of feces, urine, and mud. A female voice told the pictures: "They are defecating one in the head of the other, it is a great slave."

The video lasted just over a minute, but several people cried.

It was the last day of a Parliamentary Inquiry Commission (IPC) to investigate cases of animal abuse. One of the themes was the export of live cattle, a market of nearly R \$ 1 billion annually and that in recent months has become the target of activists, parliamentarians and the Federal Public Ministry.

The black struggle forgotten by the end of slavery - BBC News Crisis and insecurity create new wave of Brazilian migration towards Japan After the video was shown, State Representative Feliciano Filho (PRP), president of the CPI and animal rights activist, made a speech that inflamed the activists in the audience. "How can the federal government surrender and act to benefit a single company?"

He was referring to the case of the Nada ship, a Panamanian vessel that took

27,000 live cattle out of the country at one time in February. Evaluated at R \$ 64 million, the cargo went to Turkey. She belonged to Minerva Foods, one of the largest food companies in the country. At the time, the huge amount of animals in a single boat caught the attention of the activists, who reported maltreatment and went to court to prevent this type of export.

A federal judge has suspended nationwide exits, but hours later the government of President Michel Temer (MDB) went to court and reversed the ruling, claiming that the ban would cause economic damage to Brazil.

The dispute over the export of live cattle continues in court and in various instances of the legislature - it is now considered the biggest battle the animal rights movement has ever faced in the country.

Who are the activists who try to prohibit the export of almost \$ 1 bi in live cattle from Brazil?

Who are the animalists?



Entity that gathers exporters expects sales growth by up to 30% this year In February, after the denunciations of the ship Nada, lawyer Leticia Filpi, vice president of the Brazilian Association of Animal Lawyers (Abra), filed a lawsuit trying to prevent exports in São Paulo. "The legislation allows you to kill an animal to eat it, but the Constitution prohibits you from doing it with cruelty. Another factor is environmental: these ships are not made for the transport of animals, they are adapted, insecure. ethics: the view of the cattle rancher is that the animal is an irrational beast that can be exploited to death. The animal is conscious and have emotion, is subject of law," he says.

Leticia is 42 years old and has been in the field since graduating in Law. "In 2012, when I turned vegan, I decided to embrace the cause once and for all," he says. She has acted in several "battles", such as the prohibition of hunting wild boar and the vaquejada, as well as rescue of animals in conditions of mistreatment. In 2013, for example, dozens of beagles were removed by activists from the Royal Institute, a laboratory in São Paulo that was testing dogs. "Exports are the biggest cause we have ever faced, because agribusiness is a

very established industry, the strongest in the country. It generates a lot of money and has strong alliances with power," he says. "In the old days, the movement was seen as the only protector of dogs and cats, but with the entry of the more organized vegans, we started to get into bigger issues," she explains. She is also a lawyer at the Animal Rights News Agency (Anda) .

Journalist Silvana Andrade, the agency's president, criticizes the government's argument that the ban would bring economic damage to the country. "This argument is fallacious, the live cattle market is a small part of the meat that Brazil produces. The country can not have an economy based on cruelty."

PERSONAL RETAIL

The journalist and activist Silvana Andrade started the military after winning a dog in 2000. In addition to reporting on activism issues, Anda promotes legal actions against procedures that it considers to be wrong. Silvana remembers the day she started the military. "On February 19, 2000, my birthday, I won a gift dog, NinThe. I fell so in love with her that the next day I stopped eating meat.

Who are the activists who try to prohibit the export of almost \$ 1 bi in live cattle from Brazil?

After exporting live cattle for 20 years - the country is considered the largest producer of processed meat in the world. The animals are transported by truck from the farms to the port, placed on large vessels, travel thousands of miles through the sea and then are slaughtered in the buyer country. Note to Turkey, for example, nothing lasted for 15 days. Practice has been growing. According to the Brazilian Association of Exporters of Live Animals (Abreav), in 2017 Brazil sold 460 thousand heads of cattle standing - technical name for the modality -, movement of R \$ 800 million and growth of 42% compared to 2016. For this year, the entity expects 30% of high.

Most of the animals go to Muslim countries for a religious affair. The meat consumed by the faithful must be slaughtered by halal technique, following Islamic precepts. Image right
About 27,000 oxen were in the ship Nothing, who traveled to Turkey
The animal must be killed by a Muslim who has reached puberty. According to the Arab-Brazilian Chamber of Commerce, sales of live cattle to five Arab countries, such as Iraq and Egypt, have increased by 75 per cent. % in the last two years - from R \$273 million in 2015 to R \$ 412 million last year.

The case of the ship NADA began to draw attention after residents of Santos complained about the bad smell left by the droppings that fell from the trucks. Then, the NGO National Forum for Animal Protection and Defense filed a lawsuit to prevent the boat from leaving the country, alleging mistreatment. The case reached federal judge Djalma Moreira Gomes, of the 25th Civil Court of São Paulo, who appointed the veterinarian Magda Regina, an employee of the Santos City Hall, to make a report on the vessel. In the document, she wrote that, on the way to the port, the animals had electric shocks in their anus to lie on the trucks.

Already inside the ship, each bug was squeezed in a space of one square meter. Regina pointed out that there could be deaths due to trampling and even drowning in the feces. Activists carried out a series of protests against the embarkation of live cattle in São Paulo. She also stated that after the washing of the vessel, the manure and excrement were thrown into the sea "without any treatment" - each ox produces about 30 kilograms of feces per day. According to the report, the ship had three veterinarians to look after the 27,000 animals - one for every 9,000.



Who are the activists who try to prohibit the export of almost \$ 1 bi in live cattle from Brazil?

Magda also pointed out: "In a specific sector of the ship, commonly called Graxaria, it was verified the presence of equipment destined to crush the dead animals, whose result of the crushing is also thrown into the sea." A survey of the fiscal auditors of the Ministry of Agriculture Paulo Roberto de Carvalho Filho and Felipe Avila Alcover, however, pointed out the opposite result: they were not mistreated and the ship followed all the rules of the World Organization for Animal Health. "The animals presented an expression of tranquility, absence of pain, anxiety, or thermal stress, and they approached with curiosity about the human touch, a sign that they are not treated with rudeness and accustomed to grazing by a caretaker," wrote the auditors. appointed by the Federal Court. They also said that the cattle were well fed and that the decks of the vessel

They did not have adequate flooring - cleaning was done every five days. After the inspections, Federal Judge Djalma Moreira Gomes suspended exports throughout the country, but the decision was overturned by an adjudicator after an action by the Federal Attorney General's Office.

On February 4, the Minister of Agriculture, Blairo Maggi, met with President Michel Temer to discuss the case. "In addition to already being a diplomatic problem," he told Agencia Brasil. "For Pedro Camargo Neto, vice president of the Brazilian Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, of the Brazilian Rural Society (SRB), maltreatment must be "proven" before any prohibition. "We can not end a business because of a ship that is not in good condition. We are all against cruelty, but we have to separate, transportation is not necessarily cruel."

Minerva Foods, said livestock management followed all appropriate procedures to preserve animal welfare during transportation, boarding and travel. It was not the first time the company was embroiled in a controversy over the sale of live cattle. In October 2015, a ship with 5,000 animals was shipwrecked in Barcarena, Pará. Thousands of them died drowned - the company was sued and ordered to pay compensation 4.5 million to the municipality of Pará.

Brazil sells live cattle to be slaughtered in the Halal mode, which follows a series of religious rules. To Elizabeth MacGregor, director of the National Forum for Animal Protection and Protection, the ship case Nothing was important to open the discussion on the transport of live cattle. "When you talk about the environment, you need to talk about livestock, because it causes a lot of impact, with deforestation, pollution, flatulence of animals," she says, who is a vegetarian and After the departure of the vessel, the city of Santos passed a law prohibiting the transport of live cattle in its tracks, which, in practice, limited the access of trucks with animals to the largest port from the country.

However, Federal Supreme Court Justice Edson Fachin, following an action by the National Confederation of Agriculture and Livestock (CNA), suspended the effect of the law, arguing that it imposed "a disproportionate restriction" on the activity of livestock producers. There are still two projects of law that aim to put an end to the practice - one in the Legislative Assembly of São Paulo and another in the Chamber of Deputies in Brasilia.

Who are the activists who try to prohibit the export of almost \$ 1 bi in live cattle from Brazil?

Now the process of the National Forum of Protection and Defense of Animal, which also calls for the end of the market throughout the country, should be tried again soon. In an opinion on the case, the Federal Public Prosecutor has asked for a ban on exports because, in the words of the organ, it "violates the Constitution and is an act of cruelty."

In an interview with BBC Brazil, the author of the text, prosecutor Sérgio Monteiro Medeiros, stated that the vessels do not guarantee "minimum sanitary conditions nor the health and well-being of the animals." "The mortality rates are very high. they are compressed in very small spaces, they are trampled. In addition, a bed of waste, vomit, urine, feces. (The ships) are a strong proliferator of diseases," he says.



Agriculture Minister, Blairo Maggi, met with President Michel Temer to treat of livestock exports. In his opinion, the prosecutor compared transport to slave ships. "I know that this is a controversial comparison, and that a lot of people may not like it, but the slaves came in very bad conditions, just as the oxen are taken today." At that moment, the traffic was subject to international repudiation. (exports) will be the object of repudiation," he says. The data pointed out by the prosecutor are questioned by the Arab Brazilian Chamber of Commerce.

According to the agency, the buyer countries of the Brazilian live cattle indicate that only 3% of the animals arrive dead to the destination. In a note to the BBC Brazil, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply affirmed that the "cattle export in Brazil complies with the norms which reaches the activity in all its stages: from the selection of the animals in the properties of origin to the embarkation in the ports in the country and are totally in line with the directives and recommendations of the World Organization of Animal Health.

"On a trip to Turkey in this end Minister Blairo Maggi, accompanied by Brazilian agribusiness entrepreneurs, met with Turkish colleague Ahmet Fakibaba. The head of Agriculture in the country warned the Brazilian: if the current government of Turkey is reelected this year, he will travel to Brazil to announce the purchase of more livestock.