



August 11, 2023

Yehia Zakaria  
Chair and CEO  
EGYPTAIR Holding Company

Via e-mail: [chairman\\_me@egyptair.com](mailto:chairman_me@egyptair.com)

Dear Mr. Zakaria:

We're writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), Action for Primates, One Voice, and Abolición Vivisección to follow up on our earlier correspondence with EGYPTAIR regarding your practice of shipping monkeys on cargo flights to be used in experiments in the U.S. and elsewhere. One year ago, you told us "our contract for the shipment of Primates has expired by June 2022 and we did not renew it." However, it has come to our attention that you backpedaled on this commitment and shipped approximately 500 monkeys on flight MS5091 from Mauritius to the U.S. on August 5. We urge you to align your policies with those of every other major airline company by immediately and *permanently* ending all transport of monkeys to laboratories.

As we alerted EGYPTAIR before, the species you are transporting, long-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*), was assessed as endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. These animals have been driven to the brink of extinction, in large part due to their capture and exploitation as part of the international wildlife trade to laboratories via airlines. During shipment, these monkeys are crammed into small wooden crates and transported in the dark, terrifying cargo holds of planes. On this particular flight, the monkeys were kept that way for more than 24 hours.

The situation is all the more urgent because in May, Bioculture, the reported company that bred the monkeys in the shipment you transported last week, has been in the midst of an [outbreak of tuberculosis](#)—a highly infectious mycobacterial disease that can be transmitted between monkeys and human—at its export facility. This pathogen can persist on surfaces and requires specialized treatment and sanitation. Given the many pathogens carried by monkeys that can be transmitted to humans, it's clear that the international transport of monkeys not only is a serious ethical issue but also represents a grave threat to public health and safety—including for crew on your flights as well as ground crews.

We will need to let our millions of supporters around the globe know about your change in policy, and we urge you once again to divest EGYPTAIR from the business of transporting monkeys to laboratories. May we please hear from you today? Thank you.

PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

Washington  
1536 16th St. N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-483-PETA

Los Angeles  
2154 W. Sunset Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90026  
323-644-PETA

Norfolk  
501 Front St.  
Norfolk, VA 23510  
757-622-PETA

[Info@peta.org](mailto:Info@peta.org)  
[PETA.org](http://PETA.org)

Entities:

- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Switzerland
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)

Sincerely,



Amy Meyer  
Manager of Primate Experimentation Campaigns  
Laboratory Investigations Department  
PETA  
[AmyM@peta.org](mailto:AmyM@peta.org)



Nedim C. Buyukmihci, V.M.D.  
Cofounder and Veterinary Advisor, Action for Primates  
Emeritus Professor of Veterinary Medicine  
School of Veterinary Medicine  
University of California–Davis  
[actionforprimates.org](http://actionforprimates.org)  
[ncbuyukmihci@actionforprimates.org](mailto:ncbuyukmihci@actionforprimates.org)



Virgile Delâtre  
Director  
One Voice  
[virgile.delatre@one-voice.fr](mailto:virgile.delatre@one-voice.fr)



Irene Suazo  
Abolición Vivisección  
[abolicion-viviseccion.org](http://abolicion-viviseccion.org)  
[info@abolicion-viviseccion.org](mailto:info@abolicion-viviseccion.org)