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June 6, 2016

The Illustrious Sir Thomas Hodges
 Kaaba Shrine Potentate

Via e-mail

Dear Mr. Hodges,

I am writing to follow up on PETA's May 20 letter with more information about the elephant named Nosey (aka "Tiny"), who is exhibited by [Hugo Liebel](#) and was used in recent performances by your circus from May 16 to 22. Two local community members recently contacted PETA with complaints and [video footage](#) documenting the deplorable conditions under which Nosey was held while she was in Iowa for your shows. I hope that after considering this information, the Kaaba Shrine Circus will commit to going animal-free in the future.

In the wild, African elephants spend their time roaming vast grasslands and forests, swimming in ponds, and socializing with their close-knit families. But local eyewitnesses at the Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds reported that for the Kaaba Shrine Circus, Nosey was forced to stand alone in a concrete parking lot in the hot sun with no shade and no companionship with other elephants while trapped in a electric-fence stall barely large enough for her to turn around in. She was held under these conditions on both May 22 and 23, and on both occasions, she was seen continuously rocking back and forth, which is a sign of suffering and distress and is *never* seen in the wild. Forcing elephants to perform difficult circus tricks and to stand on hard concrete for prolonged periods causes and exacerbates arthritis—a fatal disease for elephants that Nosey has shown signs of for years.

Ringling Bros. has ended its elephant acts, SeaWorld has ended its orca acts, and towns across the country are banning wild-animal acts and the weapons that circuses use to force animals to perform. Just this year, the Melha Shrine Circus in Massachusetts made the compassionate decision to [go animal-free](#). It's time for the Kaaba Shrine Circus to do the same.

May I please hear from you that Kaaba Shrine Circus will feature only willing human performers to captivate audiences going forward? Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,



Rachel Mathews, Esq.

Associate Director | Captive Animal Law Enforcement

cc: Walter Hill, Chief Rabban