

## Whaling Protest set for Japan Consulate in UK

*By Staff*

(EUNN) [London](#) - Environmentalists are organizing a protest scheduled for Tuesday outside the Japanese Consulate in London, calling for an end to what the green watchdog group referred to as the "world's largest whale hunt."

The protest is being organized by the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), an independent, international organisation dedicated to investigating and exposing what it deems to be environment crime.

The Londoner's protest is being matched by thirty more being conducted worldwide simultaneously in the hopes of drawing people's attention to the senseless slaughter of whales and dolphins by the Japanese.

Every year, over 16,000 Dall's porpoises are killed in hand-thrown harpoon hunts in northern [Japan](#) - the biggest whale slaughter in the world for over a quarter of a century. Now, with fewer porpoises approaching the harpoon boats, Japanese hunters - are targeting nursing porpoises, leaving their dependent calves to starve.

Acting on warnings from scientists that these hunts are clearly not sustainable, the International Whaling Commission (IWC) has repeatedly called on the Japanese authorities to reduce the quotas, most recently to stop the hunt altogether. However, the Japanese government refuses to cooperate with the IWC on this issue.

Andy Ottaway, Campaign Whale Director, said: "Dolphins and porpoises are being slaughtered in their thousands in Japanese waters, and unlike the larger whales, this secret slaughter continues with little being done to stop it. Even the Japanese public are largely unaware that these appallingly cruel hunts are taking place."

As many as 2,000 dolphins are killed each year in drive hunts where entire schools of dolphins or small whales are driven into shallow coves and slaughtered in the most horrific way for their meat, says the EIA. Despite a declining demand for dolphin meat, the hunts continue. The meat is sold for human consumption, often falsely labeled as minke whale and despite containing dangerously high levels of toxic chemicals. Most recently town councilors in the dolphin-hunting centre of Taiji have called for a ban on the use of dolphin and whale meat in school lunches due to the high levels of toxins found in tested products.

Jennifer Lonsdale, EIA Director, said: "People in Japan are unwittingly buying and eating dolphin and porpoise meat which is dangerously contaminated with poisons such as mercury and PCBs. We are demanding that Japan takes dolphins and porpoises off the menu."

This third global protest organized by the watchdog group is said to demonstrate the overwhelming worldwide public opposition to "Japan's secret slaughter of dolphins and porpoises." Campaigners are urging world governments to take strong diplomatic measures to end Japan's indefensible massacre of these popular and sentient animals.

Calls to the Japanese Consulate went unreturned Monday, but the Metro Police say they will be on hand during the protest to prevent any possible violence or damage to private property.