



From:
Charles Webster
Chairman
WAR (Warriors for African Rhino)
May 3rd 2012

To:

URGENT REQUEST FOR PRESSURE ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT

Sir/Madam

Kindly allow us to introduce ourselves to you:

WAR (Warriors for African Rhino) is an international emergency coalition based in South Africa of civic voices comprising NGOs and voluntary associations. With our total international membership **exceeding 100,000 individuals (over 60,000 of them SA citizens)**, the alliance represents the largest grouping of South Africans determined to counter the escalating scourge of Rhino poaching.

The executives of our affiliate members (lists appended below) have mandated me to request your assistance. We would like to ask that you bring whatever pressure you can, through whatever channels available to you, to urge the South African government to stop the poaching of Rhino.

Please consider these facts and figures from IUCN, SSC and Traffic:

Since 2006, 95% of all detected or presumed rhino deaths in Africa from illegal killing have occurred in Zimbabwe and South Africa. These two nations collectively form the epicentre of an unrelenting poaching crisis in southern Africa. In South Africa, the illegal off-take has reached the highest levels in recent history, impacting not only Kruger NP on the country's border with Mozambique, but also other protected areas in KwaZulu-Natal and a range of private sector game ranches for the first time in Limpopo, Gauteng, North West and Eastern Cape provinces.

- The total number of poached rhino between 2006-2009 is 210.
- On March 6 2011, already 54 rhino had been poached at a rate of 0.83 rhino per day according to rhinoconservation.org [1].
- The latest number of poachings in 2012 is a devastating 199 rhino's of which 119 in the Kruger National Park alone at more than 1.6 per day which is double the 2011 rate! [2]
- We cannot stand by and allow the slaughter of our wildlife, especially the Rhino, to continue to follow the trends and devastation seen in the countries North of our borders.

We plead with you to help us help the rhinos, by doing the following:

- **Could you kindly voice your concern to President J. Zuma regarding the rhino poaching situation?**
- **Could you ask him to let you know what measures South Africa is taking to put a stop to this slaughter?**
- **Could you possibly make a request to the president of SA to keep you updated on the situation?**

You can be assured that Warriors for African Rhino will be conducting further media and other awareness and activism campaigns to expand the international and national civic support base, and to petition the courts to deal out the strongest possible sentences to poachers.

WAR is currently supporting an Avaaz petition for the EU parliament to speak out and voice their concern for the rhino situation and to support the NO trade agreement of CITES. Please sign and share the petition with all your contacts, we have only a few more weeks before the signatures will be presented in Brussels.

This is the link to the petition website:

http://www.avaaz.org/en/save_rhinos/?copy

Please help us win the war!

Sincerely,

Charles Webster
Chairman
WAR (Warriors for African Rhino)

WAR website: <http://www.warriorsforafricanrhino.org/>

WAR on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/RhinoWAR/>

<http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/Nearly-200-rhino-poached-in-SA-20120430#.T5-Nn8opYAA.facebook>

[1] <http://www.rhinoconservation.org/2011/03/06/south-africa-discloses-grim-rhino-poaching-numbers-for-2011/>

[2] <http://www.oscap.co.za/>

