

**RESPONSE TO SUNDAY TIMES CORRESPONDENT  
RE COLUMN, “Hypocrisy of animal rights campaigners”**

<i>Received via the Sunday Times</i>	<i>This reply sent via the Sunday Times</i>	
<p>editor The Sunday Times 1 Pennington Street London</p> <p>16 March 2009</p> <p>Dear editor</p> <p>I refer to the article “<i>Hypocrisy of animal rights campaigners</i>” by Tony Allwright <i>The Sunday Times</i>, 8 March 2009.</p>	<p>To: Ms Parin Janmohamed Letters Editor The Sunday Times Dublin</p> <p>27<sup>th</sup> March 2009</p>	<p>From: Tony Allwright Dublin</p>
<p>Do you think Tony Allwright is inciting racial violence when he describes animal rights campaigners “<i>craven</i>” for not confronting Muslims and Jews regarding their halal method of killing? Let me assure him ARC protest against any form of animal cruelty including halal killing and they are joined by Muslims and Jews.</p>	<p>I cannot see what “<i>race</i>” is being “<i>incited to violence</i>” by my observation that animal rights campaigners are happy to confront animal testers, but not people who kill perhaps eight times as many farm animals by the brutal kosher and halal methods. On the face of it, is it not “<i>craven</i>” to confront the relatively small, safe problem while ignoring the much bigger, but potentially very hazardous one?</p> <p>Nevertheless, maybe bodies such as the ARC (Animal Rights Coalition) and ALF (Animal Liberation Front) do indeed try actively to obstruct and shut down the work of Islamic slaughterhouses, targeting anyone who co-operates with them, but if so they seem to get very little publicity nor indeed suffer any backlash. Strange, no?</p> <p>On the other hand, seeing the global mayhem and murder a few childish cartoons or a carelessly named teddy bear can provoke, one can understand why the ARC/ALF might prefer to direct their robust confrontations towards placid Westerners rather than anything Islamic.</p>	
<p>As he is so against halal will he tell me what action he has taken to stop it and if he hasn’t when is he going to start? If he lets me know when and where I will be happy to join him.</p>	<p>I never said I was against halal (or kosher). I just pointed out that they constitute a barbaric way to kill an animal.</p> <p>What I am against is hypocritical animal rights activists who only go after soft targets even though they represent only a very small proportion of the animal cruelty problem.</p> <p>This seems to me to be to amount to no more than a bit of self-indulgence not to be taken seriously.</p>	
<p>He also mentions the alleged grave-theft of Gladys Hammond; I am surprised <i>The Sunday Times</i> is irresponsibly “resurrecting” Gladys yet again, especially when <i>The Times</i> said on 4 May 2006, “police were unable to prove who had physically disinterred Mrs Hammond’s body” a lot of reporters wanted to</p>	<p>Regarding the grave-robbery, I don’t know what Mrs Alger is talking about.</p> <p>On 4<sup>th</sup> May 2006, the police were indeed reported to have said what she quotes. (<a href="http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article712877.ece">http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article712877.ece</a>)</p> <p>However, just a week later, on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2006, <i>The Times</i> reported</p>	

<p>investigate the story of Gladys Hammond but were told by their editors that it would be "too risky".</p> <p>Don't you think the media has used poor Gladys enough? Isn't it time you investigated the authenticity of the grave-theft, find the truth and allow her to rest in peace?</p>	<p>that Judge Michael Pert, when sentencing three animal rights activists to twelve years, said "<i>The lowest point of your campaign was the theft of Gladys Hammond's body ... You not only disinterred her but kept her family on tenterhooks as to whether you would return her body. Having stolen the body you used it as a weapon.</i>" (<a href="http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article716107.ece">http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article716107.ece</a>)</p> <p>It seems to me that it is Mrs Alger who is (mis)using Mrs Hammond's disinterment.</p>
<p>Your sincerely</p> <p>Mrs Jean Alger Liverpool</p>	<p>I trust the above addresses the points raised by Mrs Alger. I do not expect her, however, to be happy about it.</p> <p>Yours truly,</p> <p>Tony Allwright Dublin</p>