

It is just a few days now till Ah-Yi leaves us---

As I rode my motorbike on my way to work, a broken traffic light blinked steadily. Its steady blinking took my mind back to a silent pair of eyes.

I will never forget those eyes asking me: can you make them stop?

At the farm they told me that Ah-Yi was especially obedient; that after being scared a few times he gave up resisting and ate all of the food he was given, in the hope that he will grow large enough to compete in Yi-Min Temple's pig weighing contest. Many local worshippers think that Ah-Yi has a chance of coming in third place this year - if not first - bringing honor to the pig's owner.

The atmosphere at Ah-Yi's farm is buzzing. Everyone is exuberant, and those who have paid to raise the monstrous Pigs of God are giddy at the thought of taking out the prize. They seem to have forgotten that the gods can't possibly support this kind of cruelty---

I can't stop thinking about the cruel fate that awaits Ah-Yi in a few days' time. The agony he has endured each day in his metal confines. Those silent eyes crying out for help.

I don't know what to do.

#StopPigsOfGod



Ah-Yi > 3 years old  
Force Feeding

2019.1.26

Taoyuan > Taiwan

## **Help Ah-Yi (阿義)**

### **[Sign the petition to End the Pig Sacrifice Torture!](#)**

Temple festivities are held at Hsinpu's Yi-Min Temple (義民廟) on the seventh month of the Lunar Calendar each year. The festivities are an important event for the Hakka people, though one element of the festivities remains a persistent black mark on the Hakka culture—the cruel Pigs of God pig weighing contest, where pigs are raised to obscene weights, and prizes awarded to the owners of the heaviest pigs.

For a long time, many believed the Pigs of God contest to be a Hakka tradition. However in 2016, the Ministry of Culture released a comprehensive list of Hakka folk customs at the annual temple festivities—with the Pigs of Gods contest conspicuously absent.

Even earlier, in 2011, more than 100 prominent figures in the Hakka community signed a petition declaring that the Pigs of God contest is not a Hakka custom or tradition.

Conversely, the continued association with the brutal ritual was a source of shame and damaging the reputation of the Hakka community.

Every year for 16 years, we have tirelessly advocated for an end to this inexcusable cruelty. While we have not yet succeeded, we will never give up. No animal should be subject to this fate.

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