*Maltese*

6 ta’ Awissu 2009

**Aktar restrizzjonijiet u diskriminazzjoni għall-kaċċaturi u n-nassaba tax-Xahra l-Ħamra**

Jekk il-gvern jileġiżla dak li ġie propost mill-Bord tal-Park tax-Xahra l-Ħamra li, l-kaċċa fil-Park trid tieqaf fid-9:00, allura dan ikun iffisser bl-aktar mod ċar li t-tgħakkis u d-diskriminazzjoni kontra l-kaċċaturi u n-nassaba tal-post ġejja direttament mill-gvern.

L-istess gvern li għadu kemm reġa mpona kastig kollettiv fuq il-kaċċaturi billi ddeċieda li jwaqqaf il-kaċċa wara t-tlieta ta’ wara nofsinhar fl-aħħar ħmistax ta’ Settembru, meta minħabba li jisbaħ tard, il-ħaddiem kaċċatur normalment joħroġ biss għall-kaċċa kif jerġa lura mix-xogħol peress li jkun għadu d-dawl. Dan apparti mill-fatt li jekk għad fadal min irid jikser il-Liġi billi jispara fuq tajr tal-priża, dan jista’ jagħmlu xorta, anzi tkun aktar faċli għalih jagħmel hekk l-għada fil-għodu meta jsib dan it-tajr rieqed. Dan il-kastig inutli li għat-tielet sena konsekuttiva jmur kontra l-parir li ta lill-gvern l-Kumitat Ornis u muhiex regolament li tinponi l-UE, issa qed jidher ċar li dan qed jerġa jsir biss biex il-Gvern jakkomoda l-barranin li jinġabu Malta mill-BirdLife Malta, bl-iskuża ta’ Raptor Camp u oħrajn tal-CABS, biex dawn ikollhom il-liberta’ joqgħodu jilgħabhua ta’ spiji u pulizija mal-kaċċaturi u n-nassaba bl’għan aħħari li jitkeċċew il-Maltin minn art twelidhom.

Meta f’Marzu li għadda tħabbar it-twaqqif tal-Park tax-Xahra l-Ħamra, il-Federazzjoni Kaċċaturi Nassaba Konservazzjonisti (FKNK) iltaqħet mal-Ministru is Sur George Pullicino u kif ippropona l-istess Ministru sussegwentement maċ-Chairman, is-Sur Ian Castaldi-Paris u s-Segretarju, s-Sur Mark C. Mifsud tal-Bord risponsabbli mill-Park. Waqt din il-laqgħa ġie miftiehem li l-FKNK kellha tiġbor il-kaċċaturi u n-nassaba li normalment dejjem ippratikaw il-kaċċa u l-insib fl-inħawi, wħud minnhom fuq art privata tagħhom, biex dawn jiġu organizzati taħt Kumitat Organizattiv tal-post, biex huma wkoll ikun jistgħu jagħtu sehmom fit-tmexxija tal-Park u fl-istess ħin tkkompli tissaħħaħ is-sistema ta’ “self regulation” tal-FKNK.

F’Mejju, meta l-Kumitat kien twaqqaf, l-FKNK waslitilha nformazzjoni li l-Bord kien biħsiebu jipproponi l-eluq tal-kaċċa fil-post mid-9:00 il-quddiem, għaldaqstant kitbet lill-Bord diversi drabi u talbet laqgħa. Sallum il-laqgħa qatt ma waslet.

L-iskuża li jista jġib il-Bord jew il-gvern li parti mill-post huwa siti NATURA 2000, għaldaqstant inkompatibli mal-kaċċa u l-insib hija totalment infondata kif evidenti mill-artiklu mehmuż ma din l-istqarrija.

Fl-aħħar net, l-FKNK hija kunfidenti li jekk il-partijiet kollha kkonċernati ipoġġu ma’ dwar mejda, għanda tinsab soluzzjoni sodisfaċenti u raġonevoli għal kullħadd. Għalhekk l-FKNK kitbet lill-Ministru Pullicino u qegħda tistenna risposta.

Lino Farrugia

Segretarju - FKNK

*Ingliż*

6th August 2009

**More Hardship and Discrimination for *Xahra l-Ħamra* Park Hunters and Trappers**

Were government to regulate to ban hunting after 9:00 hours from the *Xahra l-Ħamra* Park, as has been proposed by the Park's Board, then this would mean further hardship and discrimination for the hunters and trappers who normally practice their passions in the area, and clearly another direct action by government against hunters and trappers.

The same government who has just imposed another collective punishment on hunters by declaring a blanket ban on hunting after 3:00 pm during September's last fortnight, when because of late sunrise the employed hunter normally hunts on his return from work taking advantage of the late sunset. The lame excuse that the ban is being imposed to protect any roosting raptors holds no water, because if there is still around anyone who still wants to shoot raptors, he can do so more easily the following morning when the birds would still be roosting. This useless punishment, which is not an EU legislation requisite, is being imposed for the third year in succession once again contrary to what has always been recommended by the Ornis Committee Malta. The ban is simply being imposed so that the government can accommodate foreigners who come to Malta as guests of BirdLife Malta from the so termed 'Raptor Camps' and from CABS, so that these can play spies and police on Maltese hunters and trappers and whose ultimate aim is to rid the Maltese from their homeland.

When the *Xahra l-Ħamra* was declared a Park last March, the Federation for Hunting & Conservation – Malta (FKNK) met the responsible Minister Mr. George Pullicino on whose advice subsequently the FKNK met the Chairman, Mr. Ian Castaldi-Paris and Secretary, Mr. Mark C. Mifsud from the Park's appointed Board. At this latter meeting it was agreed that the FKNK would call all the hunters and trappers who normally frequent the area, some of whom on their privately owned land, and get these organised under an Organising Committee so that they also can contribute towards the area's management and further enhance FKNK's 'self-regulation' system.

In May, when the Organising Committee had been set-up, the FKNK heard rumours that the Park's Board intended proposing a hunting ban after 9:00 hours in the Park's area, and so the FKNK wrote on several occasions to the Board requesting a meeting which never materialised.

The excuse that may be put forward by the Board or government in that part of the area is a designated NATURA 2000 site and so totally incompetent with hunting and trapping, is totally unfounded as clearly explained in the attached article.

Finally the FKNK is confident that were all interested parties to discuss the issue, a satisfactory and reasonable solution can be found for one and all. The FKNK has therefore written to Minister Pullicino and awaits a reply.

Lino Farrugia - Secretary - FKNK