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# Call for Thai Government to revoke zoo licence for business behind notorious Tiger Temple

A total of 28 NGOs have today (5 March 2018) called on the Government to revoke a zoo licence for the business behind the infamous Tiger Temple.

The Tiger Temple – a tourist attraction and captive tiger facility notorious for having been repeatedly implicated in illegal trade in tiger parts, as covered in a report for Nature Vietnam and Wildlife Friends Foundation of Thailand, *Cultivating*

In 2016, raids on the facility uncovered the carcasses of 70 tiger cubs, two tiger skins and 1,000 amulets made with tiger skin.

The raid has so far not resulted in any arrests or prosecutions. Meanwhile, a court order issued to ‘Golden Tiger (Thailand) Co. Ltd’, an offshoot entity of the Tiger Temple, has not been penalised, this sends completely the wrong message to wildlife criminals.

Thai authorities need to demonstrate they are taking illegal tiger trade and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (**CITES**) seriously by taking a high profit/low risk equation.

“Some Thai enforcement authorities are trying to do the right thing by taking on prominent figures in the wildlife crime world”, notes Debbie Banks, EIA Tiger Temple Campaigner. “But they are being let down by the rest of the criminal justice system which is failing to bring prosecutions, convictions and the seizure of assets.”

The Tiger Temple debacle is also indicative of Thailand’s escalating captive tiger trade, now an estimated 1,450-2,500 tigers kept in about 50 facilities in Thailand. The majority are purely commercial ventures serving no conservation purpose whatsoever, and are implicated in illegal trade in tiger parts and products.

Trade from and through captive facilities sustains and stimulates demand for tiger products, which is driving the poaching of wild tigers in Thailand and through the trade of big cat species globally.

In this letter, we and the other 27 NGOs have offered to advise the Thai Government to phase out commercial tiger breeding facilities and also encourage authorities to support experienced operators of legitimate animal sanctuaries to look after confiscated tigers.

The [NGO letter](#) has been published online.

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