

September 4, 2023

An Act of Non-Violent Civil Disobedience to Prevent an Ecocide

On September 4, 2023, Anahita Babaei climbed the crows nest of Hvalur 8 in a non-violent act of civil disobedience to prevent the killing on an endangered species, the fin whale.

The hunting of fin whales violates both Icelandic and international laws.

Killing fin whales violates the Icelandic Act on Animal Welfare, which was recognized by Svandís Svavarsdóttir, the Minister for Food Agriculture and Fisheries, as the basis for suspending hunting on June 20th.

The Ethical Review Board said there was no humane way to kill a whale, and Svandís Svavarsdóttir agreed. The working group that was convened over the summer to review the methods of kill also concluded that their work did not address the findings of the Ethical Review Board, and therefore those findings stand.

Killing fin whales violates the moratorium on commercial hunting under the IWC that was enacted in 1986. Fin whales are an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act, and listed as vulnerable under IUCN.

The United States has imposed diplomatic sanctions on Iceland since 2014 under the Pelly Amendment for trafficking in an endangered species which violates The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

The killing of fin whales violates The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which Iceland has ratified, which protects the rights of children to live in a **clean, healthy** and sustainable **environment**

Almost 600,000 people around the world have signed a petition calling on Iceland to end whaling, and more than 80 people in the foreign film industry have pledged not to work in Iceland if whaling resumes. The foreign film industry represents approximately \$150,000,000/year in revenue to Iceland.

We are in a climate crisis and whales are critical for our survival. There is no reasonable argument for killing these majestic, sentient, sea mammals who have roamed freely for tens of millions of years. Commercial whaling has brought whales to

the brink of extinction. Fin whales populations are down 90% in 150 years of commercial whaling.

I am deeply saddened by Svandis' decision to allow whaling to resume, and see no other option to trying to prevent this crime against whales and humanity.