

EYE ON THE NEWS

SOUTH AFRICAN RHINOCEROSES HORNS SAWN OFF - CRUELLY LEFT TO DIE



South African rhinoceroses are being shot to immobilize them... then their horns are cruelly sawn off. **Unlike antlers on deer, which seasonally shed, horns are an integral part of the body of a rhinoceros, providing personal identity and self-protection.** Consider the terrible suffering caused to the rhinoceroses by cutting off their horns. Yet, that is what is happening to them. Rhinos are left alive to die, writhing in pain sometimes for days. Rhinoceros horns have been used for millennia in China and other Asian nations in many "products," including bowls, dagger handles, ornaments, and especially, in powdered form, in a variety of medicines – it is cruelly ironic that one of the purported medicinal uses is to promote "harmony and balance" in the life of the human who takes it.

Thousands upon thousands of rhinoceroses have been slain for human "sport" and profit. They are now an endangered species in the wild. If they are living on "farms," they may be exploited for their bodies.

International law and strong, enforceable sanctions must put a stop to this nightmare. Wildlife Watch asks that everyone lobby their elected representatives, and insist that our government refuse to do business with South Africa or any other nations that allow this cruelty.

Read story at:

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/01/world/africa/ruthless-smuggling-rings-put-rhinos-in-the-cross-hairs.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0