



Publication: Patheos (online)
Date: 02.01.19



'A sad day for Jews': Belgium bans religious slaughter

■ JANUARY 2, 2019 BY BARRY DUKE ■ 10 COMMENTS

The head of the Conference of European Rabbis, Pinchas Goldschmidt, has slammed new rules that came into effect on January 1 that stipulate animals have to be stunned before slaughter – a method that runs contrary to Jewish and Muslim rituals.



Image via YouTube

Goldschmidt, above, is quoted [here](#) as saying that is the move is:

A sad day for the Jews of Europe, a sad day for religious freedom in Europe



The distressing image above, of a calf about to have its throat cut and bled out without stunning, comes from a [video](#) called "INSANE Halal Slaughter" shot by animal rights activist [Joey Carbstrom](#).

The decision to impose a ban kosher and halal slaughter was made by Wallonia and the Flanders region in May and June 2017 respectively and came into force in the new year.

Earlier this year, the regional government in Lower Austria came under fire in the country and abroad for their plans to limit access to kosher and halal meat, after speculation arose that believers would have to register to buy meat from animals slaughtered according to religious laws.

Some associated the legislation, which is directed against animal cruelty, with Nazi rules.

The production of kosher and halal meat is considered to be cruel by animal rights activists, as Judaism and Islam require that adherents to the faiths only eat meat from animals whose throats have been cut while they are still conscious. The slaughtered animals should also completely bleed out.

In Germany, religious slaughter methods are generally forbidden, although exceptions can be made.

In Austria, it is only permitted to take place at specially approved slaughterhouses, in the presence of a veterinarian.

Debate on restricting religious slaughter has also taken place in Poland, the Netherlands, and Switzerland.

Meanwhile, in the UK, a [petition](#) has been launched calling on the authorities to make it compulsory for halal meat to be clearly labelled as such in food outlets. It says:

Halal and other meat which has been ritually slaughtered in the UK (either by pre-stunning or non-stun) is not clearly labelled in supermarkets and stores across much of the country. This means that without knowing it, British people may have consumed Halal meat. Consumers deserve to know what they're buying and should be granted the opportunity to make more informed choices.

More than 15,000 people have already signed it.

As an aside, I noticed recently as I was at the checkout of a hypermarket in Spain that a chicken I had chosen had a very small halal label. When I explained to the cashier that I didn't want it and why, she vigorously nodded her head in agreement and said:

<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/thefreethinker/2019/01/a-sad-day-for-jews-belgium-bans-religious-slaughter> *Estoy de acuerdo. Es muy cruel (I agree. It's very cruel).*

