

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** May 14, 2019

## **SHOCKING UNDERGROUND SLAUGHTERHOUSE INVESTIGATED IN FELLSMERE, FLORIDA**



**A press conference will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at the following address:**

**Start Time: 1:00 pm**

**DoubleTree by Hilton**

**4431 PGA Boulevard, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410**

**Lular Room**

**FELLSMERE, FLORIDA**, May 14, 2019 - An Animal Recovery Mission (ARM) investigation into a custom-exempt slaughter farm, known as “Black Cloud” located at 11111 County Rd 507 in Fellsmere, Florida beginning in June 2018, revealed a grisly business generating profit from animal cruelty and death. ARM investigators were able to capture on video extreme abuse and inhumane treatment committed by two employees, as well as cement the preconceived notion that Black Cloud was not only a slaughter farm but was also selling farmed and domestic animals alive for ritualistic practices taking place off site.

ARM investigators were prompted to enter Black Cloud on two additional occasions in December 2018 in order to delve deeper into this heinous backyard operation. All visits revealed animals, including goats, crying out in anguish as they were violently dragged through the dirt by a rope and their throats sawed into relentlessly with a dull blade, all the while struggling to escape the killer’s grasp. Each goat remained alive and endured excruciating pain for several long minutes. Two of the goats continued to breathe and exhibited clear signs of life even as they were hoisted by a chain pulley off the ground and skinned alive. Chickens, a goat, and a puppy intended for sacrifice were also purchased alive by investigators.

None of the goats fallen victim to slaughter at Black Cloud were rendered insensible to pain as clearly illustrated in the Humane Slaughter Act. ARM seeks justice for these animals so callously disposed of by the two killers. The owner of Black Cloud, William “Billy” Lathero, has since then deceased; however, the two men who committed crimes in violation of the Humane Slaughter Act remain at large and have most likely been recruited to other torture farms in the vicinity. The Indian River County Sheriff’s Office and the Office of the State Attorney have refused to acknowledge the cruelty that occurred at Black Cloud, despite being one of the worst cases of animal cruelty exposed on video in 2019.

“The illegal actions towards the animals at Black Cloud are ghastly,” said Richard “Kudo” Couto, Founder of ARM. “The only thing more shocking than the animal brutality taking place at the Black Cloud slaughterhouse is the lack of enforcement the case has received from both the Indian River County Sheriff’s Office and the State Attorney’s Office.”

The Animal Recovery Mission is a Non-Profit animal cruelty investigative organization based in Miami Beach, Florida. A defending force for the welfare of all animals, ARM is a vanguard organization dedicated to eliminating extreme animal cruelty operations worldwide. To view the undercover video <https://vimeo.com/335954873> | Comments and media inquiries should be directed to Richard “Kudo” Couto, 305-494-2225, [kudo@arminvestigations.org](mailto:kudo@arminvestigations.org) or Chelsea Baczek, 786-300-7047, [baczek@arminvestigations.org](mailto:baczek@arminvestigations.org) | Further information about ARM is available at [animalrecoverymission.org](http://animalrecoverymission.org)