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DOLPHINARIS ARIZONA CLOSES

SCOTTSDALE: After multiple protests and worldwide condemnation against the beleaguered desert facility, Dolphinaris Arizona is closed.

Dolphinaris Arizona finally admitted defeat and stated they will no longer house dolphins at the Arizona facility. The decision was announced in a statement Wednesday evening, after news that the four remaining dolphins at Dolphinaris have been shipped to a “sanctuary” in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Officials with Dolphinaris say they are confident the facility will “reopen as a new concept” that will not involve dolphins. Sadly, this facility is not a true sanctuary and the dolphins will continue to be exploited for human amusement.

“We call on Arizona Governor Doug Ducey and the mayors of every city across Arizona to make a formal public commitment and enact a law that no other captive dolphin facilities be permitted to do business in our state ever again. We can do better, so let's do better together.” ~ Patricia Cady, Dolphin Free AZ

At the beginning of February, Dolphin Project procured a plane to fly a banner “Dolphinaris: Why Are 4 Dolphins Dead?” all weekend over various high-profile locations in the Scottsdale area, including Arizona State University, The Phoenix Open (which boasts an average attendance of 500K spectators), and a demo which saw over 200 people protesting against Dolphinaris Arizona.

BACKGROUND

Four dolphins have died at Dolphinaris Arizona in the span of 16 months. Prior to the facility's opening in October 2016, organizations across the world including Dolphin Project and Dolphin Free AZ have raised serious concerns about keeping dolphins captive in the desert. In 2017, Dolphin Project, together with DolphinFree AZ launched a billboard campaign in three Scottsdale area malls to raise public awareness about captivity and Dolphinaris Arizona. Despite the facility's disturbing track record, along with growing protests, officials at Dolphinaris Arizona have stated release of their remaining dolphins is not being considered.

Dolphin Project was founded on Earth Day 1970, with the aim to stop dolphin slaughter and exploitation around the world. This work has been chronicled in films such as 'A Fall From Freedom', the Oscar-winning documentary 'The Cove', and in the Animal Planet mini-series, 'Blood Dolphin\$'. Dolphin Project is the longest-running, leading organization created solely for the protection of dolphins. Ric O'Barry has pioneered the re-adaption & release of captive dolphins into the wild around the globe.