

Brussels, **22 FEB. 2017**
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To all the MEPs signatories of the letter addressed to HRVP Mogherini as regards the situation of Ms Zaghari-Ratcliffe

Dear colleagues,

I would like to thank you for your letter whereby you raise concerns about the situation of Ms Zaghari-Ratcliffe, a dual British-Iranian citizen recently sentenced to five years in prison in Iran.

The case of Ms Zaghari-Ratcliffe, as well as other dual-nationals held in Iran, is well known to the European Union and I share your concerns regarding their situation. We have been in direct contact with Ms Zaghari-Ratcliffe's family and we are closely monitoring developments. Although the main responsibility for consular protection of EU citizens abroad lies with the Member State of origin, the EU has raised the case of Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe with the Iranian authorities and will continue to do so.

I would take this opportunity to recall that human rights remain a central feature of EU Foreign Policy. As you mentioned, during my visit to Tehran on 16 April 2016, it was agreed to engage on a Human Rights Dialogue with the Iranian authorities starting with an exchange of visits. A first such exchange with representatives of the judiciary sector has indeed already taken place in the context of the EU-Iran High Level Dialogue last November. This dialogue will continue in the coming months.

Yours sincerely,



Federica Mogherini