



Европейски парламент Parlamento Europeo Evropský parlament Europa-Parlamentet Europäisches Parlament
Euroopa Parlament Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινοβούλιο European Parliament Parlement européen Parlaimint na hEorpa
Europski parlament Parlamento europeo Eiropas Parlaments Europos Parlamentas Európai Parlament
Parlament Ewropew Europees Parlement Parlament Europejski Parlamento Europeu Parlamentul European
Európsky parlament Evropski parlament Euroopan parlamentti Europaparlamentet

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Filippo Grandi

Brussels, 23 April 2018

Dear High Commissioner,

I have been receiving troubling reports from activists and NGOs concerning the dire situation in which Ethiopian refugees in the European Union, and namely in Germany, find themselves.

The situation in Ethiopia, despite recent political developments, continues to be volatile - we do not yet know if the newly-appointed Prime Minister, Abiy Ahmed, will choose to continue on the path of repression, discrimination, torture and disrespect for fundamental human rights, which have become commonplace during the TPLF/EPRDF regime.

NGOs continue to report that authorities use arbitrary arrests, politically-motivated persecutions, and torture to silence journalists, human rights' activists and opposition party members. Many Ethiopians are persecuted due to their ethnicity, namely Oromos. Therefore, Ethiopians fleeing their country should be considered as refugees, according to the UN 1951 Refugee Convention.

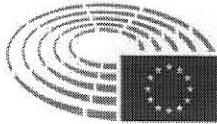
However, in Germany, the situation seems to be perceived differently. Asylum seekers are treated more and more like economic refugees, and Germany has the lowest asylum acceptance rate for Ethiopian refugees in Europe, having accepted only 17.5% of new requests in 2016¹.

Moreover, Germany has been conducting a policy of making asylum seekers leave Germany through financial incentives that "*cover rent or resettlement costs back in their home countries*"², regardless of the dangerousness of the situation there.

¹ <https://www.worlddata.info/africa/ethiopia/asylum.php>

² <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-42235232>

Ana Gomes
European Parliament
Bât. Altiero Spinelli, 14G201, 60, rue Wiertz 60, B-1047 Brussels, Belgium
Tel. : +32 (0)2 284 58 24 Fax : +32 (0)2 284 98 24
anamaria.gomes@ep.europa.eu



Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινοβούλιο Parlamento Europeo Evropský parlament Europa-Parlamentet Europäisches Parlament
Euroopa Parlament Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινοβούλιο European Parliament Parlement européen Parlaimint na hÉirípa
Europski parlament Parlamento europeo Eiropas Parlaments Europos Parlamentas Europai Parlaiment
Parlament Ewropew Europees Parlement Parlament Europejski Parlamento Europeu Parlamentul European
Európsky parlament Evropski parlament Euroopan parlamentti Europaparlamentet

This is a tactic that is also used by other European countries (i.e. Sweden and Norway), as well as the European Union in general, which is trying to deal with migrants as if they were a transaction without regards to their suffering, as was shown by the EU-Turkey deal.

I therefore urge you and the United Nations Refugee Agency to double down on the efforts in making European countries recognise Ethiopians as refugees, so they can be granted asylum, as they should be.

Best regards,
Ana Gomes

Ana Gomes
Member of the European Parliament