



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 Europai Parlament
Parlament Ewropew Europees Parlement Parlament Europejski Parlamento Europeu Parlamentul European
Európsky parlament Evropski parlament Euroopan parlamentti Europaparlamentet

Federica Mogherini

High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the Commission

Brussels, 12 October 2016

High Representative
Dear Federica,

I was shocked by the Statement of the HR/VP Spokesperson on Ethiopia's announcement of a state of emergency over the last weekend.

The statement suggests that the state of emergency serves the protection of fundamental rights in Ethiopia at a time of great grievances and escalation of violence in the country, caused by the brutal repression of the people by the government forces. Instead of upholding fundamental rights, the declaration of state emergency may actually lead the country into further bloodshed and civil war, since the decree suspends most rights guaranteed in the Ethiopian Constitution, including blocking internet and media.

On the other hand, the Spokesperson calls for inclusive dialogue and a comprehensive reform package to be brought to the Ethiopian Parliament, obliterating the fact that the current legislature does not represent the Ethiopian people, since it results from an unfair and uncompetitive election process in 2015, which gave the ruling party EPRDF almost all seats and 100% control.

Instead, the EU should be pressing the Ethiopian authorities to lift the "state of emergency" decree, and to give proper response to the demands of the Ethiopian people raised during the protests in the past months. And should press the government to accept an international independent investigation, with a mandate to cover allegations of human rights violations since the unrest in Oromia began in November 2015.

The EU should also press the Ethiopian government to immediately and unconditionally release all political prisoners, cease the use of excessive and unnecessary lethal force by security forces against peaceful protestors, open up for opposition and critics of the regime, and invite all stakeholders to a process of national dialogue and reconciliation, what, somehow, Chancellor Merkel did in her visit to Ethiopia yesterday, making the EU's and EEAS' absence of any such call even more politically inept and shameful.

Best regards,
Ana Gomes

Ana Gomes
Member of the European Parliament