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Ms Ana Gomes, MEP  
European Parliament  
60, Rue Wiertz  
B-1047 Brussels

*Dear Colleague,*

Thank you for bringing to my attention your concerns about the kidnapping of Turkish citizen Mesut Kacmaz and his family in Pakistan and their alleged deportation from Pakistan.

In general, the stance taken by the Government of Pakistan to force Turkish citizens, associated with the PakTurk school system, to leave the country, as it already happened in November 2016, is a worrying development threatening to weaken the rule of law, the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The EU is regularly calling upon the Government of Pakistan to respect the rule of law and to act in compliance with international human rights standards. In the EU-Pakistan Sub-Group meeting on Human Rights and Governance held in Brussels on 9 October 2017, the EU stressed the importance of progress in the field of Human Rights.

In this regard, the GSP+ scheme is helping Pakistan to assume the responsibilities that come from ratifying and implementing 27 core international conventions, including on Human Rights.

Let me reassure you that I share your concerns about this particular case. I will instruct the EU Delegation in Islamabad to inquire and address the issue with the Pakistani authorities.

Yours sincerely,



Federica Mogherini