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The President

His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa
Prime Minister of Bahrain

308586 16.05.2012

Dear Prime Minister,

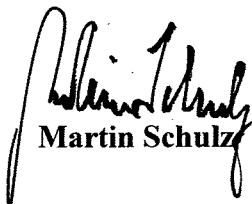
I am writing to you to convey my considerable dismay at the way Ms Ana Gomes, Member of the European Parliament, was treated at Manama Airport on Sunday, April 29th, as she requested visa upon her arrival.

Ms Ana Gomes, who is the Coordinator for the Socialists & Democrats within the Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament, as well as a member of the Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Subcommittee on Security and Defence, abided by all legal procedures but was nonetheless denied entry to the territory of Bahrain, after seven hours of awaiting, without further explanation from the Bahraini authorities.

As President of the European Parliament, I consider this shameful treatment as not acceptable and completely contrary to the values of friendship, confidence and mutual trust that should prevail in the relationships between the European Union and Bahrain.

That is why, in a spirit of openness and fair cooperation, I request that the Bahraini authorities provide details as to the motivations behind their decision and solemnly ask them that such an incident be avoided in the future.

Yours sincerely,


Martin Schulz