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Ms. Federica Mogherini

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

Brussels, 8 September 2017

Dear Federica

I would like to bring your attention to a situation reported to me concerning the eligibility of an Angolan human rights NGO, SOS Habitat - Acção Solidária, which works with cases involving housing rights and access to property for EU funding.

In March 2015, the Angolan Government issued a Presidential Decree creating a new government agency, IPROCAC, which purpose is to coordinate and control the actions of NGOs and other Associations.

In contrast to the Law of Associations and the Constitution of Angola, NGOs are now obliged to register with IPROCAC, and two other ministries in order to obtain legal status; fearing that this decree would hinder the fundamental right of association and contribute to the supervision of NGOs' activities, the Bar Association of Angola took the case to the Constitutional Court. The Court deemed the Presidential Decree unconstitutional on 5 July, 2017.

SOS Habitat had applied for project funding with the EU Delegation, a project which has already been approved. Now, however, they have been informed by the Delegation that the funding has been denied on the basis of SOS Habitat not having a declaration from IPROCAC, the institution created on the basis of a Decree considered unconstitutional by the Angolan Constitutional Court.

I urge you to address this situation urgently to make sure that this NGO is not prevented from having access to EU funding, which is crucial for it to be able to conduct its work. The EU's aid to Angola is critical for the empowering of civil society and ensuring their financial viability and should never be hindered by bureaucratic hurdles created by the government to hamper their activities.



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Best regards,
Ana Gomes

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Member of the European Parliament