

Brussels, **08 NOV. 2018**
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Ms Ana Gomes MEP
Member of the European Parliament
Brussels

Dear Ana,

I thank you for your letter regarding the arrest of Mr Biram Dah Abeid, President of the antislavery movement 'IRA' in Mauritania, a few weeks before the legislative elections in which he ran as a candidate and was elected.

The judicial process is still ongoing, and the European Union, together with the Member States in Mauritania and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, is following his case very closely. We are in regular contact with the Mauritanian authorities, both in Nouakchott and in Brussels, taking also into account the sensitive electoral context.

This dialogue with the Mauritanian authorities is all the more important since Mr Biram Dah Adeid has become a member of the National Assembly and should benefit from the associated rights and immunities, which should facilitate his release.

I attach particular importance to the situation of political and human rights defenders, and to good governance and the rule of law in Mauritania. These are issues which I raise on the occasion of bilateral contacts with representatives of the Mauritanian Government and which are also discussed in the framework of the ACP-EU Parliamentary Assembly. This is also a common thread in our regular political dialogue and in the cooperation programmes implemented by the EU in Mauritania.

Yours sincerely,



Federica Mogherini