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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, 6th of April 2017

Dear Federica,

On Saturday night, the 11th of March, a mountain of garbage gave way at the *Koshe* garbage landfill (the largest in the Ethiopia), killing 82 people according to Al-Jazeera's most recent reports. Entire families, including children, were buried in the tragedy¹. Houses of people who lived in the garbage dump were flattened when part of it collapsed.

Residents are blaming the construction of a biogas plant for the collapse, which the Government of Ethiopia denies, blaming instead the "plant squatters" for digging into the hillside. However, according to Amnesty International (AI), the Government is fully responsible for the collapse and its human lives toll².

Amnesty International states that the Government was well aware that the site was full to capacity, but continue to use it, regardless of the risk posed to the people living there. Moreover, AI says that the Government failed to relocate these people, who had no choice but to work in this hazardous conditions (the squatters collect recyclables deposited in the dump and sell them in order to sustain themselves)³.

This is a clear failure by the Government to uphold these people's rights to adequate housing and decent work. A failure by the Government of a country which benefits greatly from EU funding.

¹ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/03/death-toll-rises-65-addis-ababa-rubbish-landslide-170314043054377.html>

² <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/mar/13/death-toll-rises-to-65-after-rubbish-dump-landslide-in-ethiopia>

³ See ref. above



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What recommendation have the EU and you personally, in your recent visit to Addis Ababa, made to the Government of Ethiopia on the need for accountability on the number and identification of victims, treatment for those wounded and compensation for the relatives of those deceased and identification and trial of government officials responsible for this horrific failure?

Best regards

Ana Gomes

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Member of the European Parliament