

Brussels, 20 NOV. 2017
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Ms. Ana Gomes MEP
European Parliament
60, rue Wiertz
1047 Brussels

Dear Colleague,

I would hereby like to thank you for your letter of 26 October 2017 drawing my attention to the Human Rights situation in Cabinda. I took note of your concerns and I would like to reiterate my commitment to ensuring the promotion and protection of human rights in Angola. As such, the EU Delegation in Angola has been following the situation closely and has recently met both, Mr Arão Bula Tempo (Lawyer and Human Rights Activist based in Cabinda) and the President of ADCDH (*Associação para o Desenvolvimento da Cultura dos Direitos Humanos*).

Reports of a serious deterioration of the social and economic situation in Cabinda, and the systematic violation of Human Rights of the Cabinda people, require effective follow-up, on the basis of verifiable information and if possible with an opportunity to question government representatives, civil society activists, and citizens on the ground.

The election of a new President in Angola is an opportunity to intensify our political and policy dialogues, and human rights should be at the heart of this. The European Union will encourage greater transparency regarding the situation in Cabinda, and in particular proper investigation of alleged deaths attributed to the police and acts of harassment against human rights defenders.

Naturally, allowing independent external actors to visit Cabinda would be an important confidence-building measure on the side of the Angolan authorities. The European Union will definitely call on the authorities to allow such visits.

I would conclude by assuring you that the EU Delegation in Angola will continue to closely follow the situation and take appropriate steps in order to address the issues you raise in your letter.

Yours sincerely,



Federica Mogherini