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H.E. the Prime Minister of the Netherlands,
Mr. Mark Rutte

Strasbourg, 14 March 2019

Dear Prime Minister,

I would like to bring to your attention the case of a Bahraini citizen, Mr. Ali Al-Shuwaikh, who was denied asylum in the Netherlands.

Mr. Al-Shuwaikh was fleeing his country for being a political dissident, which under the United Nations 1951 Refugee Convention should qualify him as a refugee, therefore allowing him to seek asylum.

However, after being denied asylum, he was deported on the 20th October 2018 back to Bahrain - a country in which he was in danger - and was subsequently arrested once arrived at the airport. This therefore goes against the principle of "non-refoulement".

Mr. Al-Shuwaikh was then tortured and forced to sign a confession, and tried under a law that the United Nations and several human rights organisations condemn for violating international human rights standards. On the 28th of February 2019, he was sentenced to life in prison and stripped of his nationality.

The European Parliament has adopted a significant number of resolutions condemning Bahrain for gross and systematic Human Rights violations^{1,2,3}. Political dissidents have been persecuted, tortured and unjustly imprisoned in Bahrain, especially those having participated in the demonstrations of 2011. I would therefore like to ask you how your administration evaluated that Mr. Al-Shuwaikh was not eligible for asylum and mostly, how it was deemed safe for him to be deported back to Bahrain.

*Best regards,
Ana Gomes*

Ana Gomes
Member of the European Parliament

¹ http://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/RC-8-2016-0900_EN.html?redirect

² http://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/RC-8-2017-0150_EN.html?redirect

³ http://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/RC-8-2018-0281_EN.html

Ana Gomes

European Parliament

Bât. Altiero Spinelli, 14G201, rue Wiertz 60, B-1047 Brussels, Belgium

Tel. : +32 (0)2 284 58 24 Fax : +32 (0)2 284 98 24

anamaria.gomes@ep.europa.eu