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Federica Mogherini

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

Strasbourg, 14 January 2019

Dear Federica,

In addition to the letter on the Human Rights situation in Nicaragua, I would like to bring your attention a specific case of Human Rights abuses in the country.

Amaya Coppens is a medical student who participated and became one of the leaders of the student protests in April 2018 in Nicaragua, more specifically in León. On 10 September 2018, she was unlawfully arrested by paramilitary forces on charges of terrorism, according to a new “anti-terrorist” law used to criminalise protesters and end with the protests.

In her case, not only was the presumption of innocence not respected, as for several other protesters, but she has also been unable to meet her lawyer before her first hearing in December. Moreover, there are a number of other problems with her case. Her audiences are done behind closed doors, and there are inconsistencies in the proof presented by the prosecutor.

There are several other cases as this one, and many women political prisoners have suffered from very poor detention conditions. They are confined in their prison cells, undergo psychological pressure and have no access to medical treatment, even though some have serious health issues.

I therefore urge you and the EEAS to follow-up on these cases and put pressure on local authorities to guarantee these women an access to medical treatment, and humane conditions and finally, guarantee they are freed from these unlawful and politically motivated detentions.

*Best regards,
Ana Gomes*

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