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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, 20 October 2017

Dear Federica,

I am concerned with the situation of Mr. Ali Isa Altajer, an employee of a construction company, who is due to appear in court on 30th October 2017 in Bahrain. Arrested at 03:00AM on 5th November 2015, Mr. Altajer has maintained his innocence although he was repeatedly tortured for 24 days. No evidence was ever found during the search conducted by the arresting authorities to corroborate the charges he is facing. His defence lawyers have been unable to meet their client, cross examine the prosecution witnesses or see all the evidence. The main prosecution witness is Mr. Mohamed Saidi, Head of the C.I.D whose father was killed in clashes in the 90s.

Interrogated over a tunnel under a house at the time of his arrest, Bahrain authorities have now raised the charges to membership of a “terrorist cell”. Judge al Dharani, who will attend the 30th October session, has previously sentenced two people to death although there was no evidence other than confessions post torture.

It is believed that Mr. Altajer was detained to put pressure on his brother and his father-in-law who is a leading Shiite political figure. Mr. Altajer’s brother, Mr. Mohamed Al Tajer, a human rights lawyer, has had no response to the official complaint he filed with the Ombudsman, the special investigation Office of the Public Prosecutor and the National Institute for Human Rights.

I hereby urge you and the EEAS Delegation in Bahrain to actively engage the Bahraini authorities at their highest level in order to prevent another case of miscarriage of justice.

*Best regards,
Ana Gomes*

Ana Gomes
Member of the European Parliament