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Európsky parlament Evropski parlament Euroopan parlamentti Europaparlamentet

Brussels, 1 March 2018

Dear Federica,

I have been receiving a lot of complaints from Ethiopians who have been outraged by the EEAS' statement of February 19, on the reinstatement of the State of Emergency, following the resignation by Prime Minister Dessalegn. Even the U.S. Embassy in Ethiopia, they point out, was more critical and in disagreement with the government's decision to impose a new State of Emergency.

You know that I think that our policy regarding Ethiopia has been disastrous for years, mostly led by a perverse lobby of interests of the “development industry” and counterproductive security pretexts. The current situation with infighting within the ruling autocrats, continuing brutal repression on the people who keep protesting despite the massacres, is putting Ethiopia at the brink of chaos and disintegration. Somalia will appear as kids playground... And the EU has failed to exert any influence - and we could have a tremendous one - and has discredited itself in the eyes of the future power players, having sided with the antidemocratic oppressors. As a European, I am ashamed!

I ask you to immediately review our policy and stand towards Ethiopia. The people who have been setting it and advising you on it are totally wrong!

Also I would ask to act to get all the political prisoners released, in particular Andargachew Tsegue, a charismatic and well respected leader of the opposition, who is a UK national as well, and who was kidnapped from a plane in Yemen several years ago. Earlier this year the government released many political prisoners, but unfortunately many more remain incarcerated, including Andargachew Tsege and Canadian Bashir Makhtal. Why can't the EEAS put pressure in the shaky rulers in Addis Ababa now so that they release this European binational and all other political prisoners still in jail?

Best regards,

Ana Gomes