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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, 13 December 2018

Dear Federica,

I would like to bring to your attention the case of Hakeem Al Araibi, a Bahraini footballer who was granted asylum in Australia.

He is facing charges of vandalism (in absentia), which he denies, and therefore fled to Australia in 2014. He was granted the refugee status last year and is a football player in an Australian football team. However, Bahraini issued an Interpol red notice for Mr. Al Araibi, which led him being detained in Bangkok, Thailand on 27 November where he was going on vacation.

Mr. Al Araibi claims he will be tortured if extradited to Bahrain. His detention in Bangkok was extended for 60 days on Tuesday, leaving a small window to act on his behalf.

I therefore urge you and the EEAS to join the Australian government in its diplomatic talks with Thailand in order to get Mr. Al Araibi released and back in Australia, as his status should allow.

*Best regards,
Ana Gomes*

Ana Gomes

Member of the European Parliament

Ana Gomes

European Parliament

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