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Dimitris Avramopoulos
Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship

Brussels, 16 May 2018

Dear Commissioner Avramopoulos,

I have been receiving numerous reports of an increasing number of arbitrary deportations of Ethiopian refugees by the Bavarian government in Germany. Many of these political refugees belong to the Oromo and Amhara ethnic groups and have fled Ethiopia to avoid being hunted down by the ruling regime; a lot of them have experienced unlawful imprisonment, rape and even torture.

On 6 December 2017, a Council draft proposal was leaked; in it, there were indications that the EU could be implementing an agreement with Ethiopia in view of establishing an admission procedure with the objective of deporting Ethiopian citizens who live illegally in the EU back to Ethiopia. In Germany, oftentimes these refugees have not been able to claim refugee status and the German office for migration and refugees mandates that they be sent back. In sum, an EU country enforcing deportations on innocent refugees, often separating fathers and mothers from their children and loved ones.

This is outrageous. In Ethiopia, a State of Emergency is still in place. If sent back, these refugees will face persecution, harassment and imprisonment.

I urge you to engage with the German authorities and the UNHCR and act to prevent any case of forceful or wrongful deportation of Ethiopians living in the EU. In addition, could you explain whether the European Commission is indeed working on any agreement with the Ethiopian authorities to facilitate the deportation of illegal refugees?

Best regards

Ana Gomes
Member of the European Parliament