

**Ana GOMES**

Brussels, 27 November 2013

Dear High Representative Ashton,

Dear Special Representative Lambrinidis,

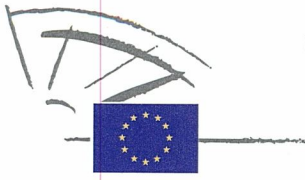
Dear Commissioner Füle,

Dear Commissioner Malmström,

I am writing this letter to bring to your attention the harsh treatment of migrants in Tripoli, Libya. It has been reported that a head of a militia in Libya, Sayed Ghazallah, is being paid to deal with the overflow of illegal immigrants coming into Libya from other countries. Ghazallah and his militiamen operate a so-called “detention center”, that resembles a cage with steel bars holding people. This is where all the immigrants coming into Libya are held before they are either let go or deported, depending on whether they can prove that they are legally there and test negative for infectious diseases.

Libya has received European criticism for the recent deaths of migrants who have drowned while making their way out of Libya towards Europe on boats that have sunk or capsized. The Libyans do not have adequate coast guard or policing equipment to secure its borders, which is why the EU sent a CSDP mission to the country (EUBAM) to assist it in securing its terrestrial and maritime borders. An increasing number of refugees from the war in Syria as well as other countries keep trickling into the country hoping to find jobs or find temporary asylum; as you well know, some even make desperate journeys to European shores.

As these migrants are fleeing their countries hoping to find refuge someplace else, it is appalling and unfortunate that other countries, including some European countries, are not willing to lend them a helping hand. Europe should strive to extend mutual respect and hospitality for people from other countries, instead of taking an isolationist approach, and inspire the rest of the world to follow in its footsteps. It is not merely prosperity in living standards for its people (given the current economic



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climate) that should be Europe's top priority, but also simply aspiring to continue playing the role of an active supporter of human rights and peace in the world.

Sincerely,

Ana Gomes

Member of the European Parliament