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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, 27 September 2017

Dear Federica,

I wish to bring to your attention the disturbing reports regarding the kidnapping of the family of Mr. Mesut Kacmaz, a Turkish citizen and the former director of PakTurk International Schools and Colleges, a Turkish school in poor neighbourhoods in Pakistan.

On Wednesday, 26 September 2017, Mr. Kacmaz and his wife were taken from their home in Wapda town, Lahore, in the middle of the night. The family had been living in Pakistan on UNHCR asylum seeker certificate.

According to Fatih Avci - also a teacher and an asylum seeker under the protection of the UNHCR in Pakistan, who witnessed the raid and illegal detention of the Kacmaz family - around "15 plain clothed 'police officers'" arrested the family and brought them to an unknown location. Fatih Avci was detained when he protested the way the family was being treated.

Mr. Avci reported his experience to Human Rights Turkey, in a post that describes how the family - and himself - were blindfolded, hooded, and taken to an undisclosed location. Fatih Avci says one of the 'officers' told him that he was not meant to be involved, but since he protested they had to take him; since his name was not on the officers' list, he would be set free. He was later released.

I remind you that back in November 2016, Pakistan's Interior Minister ordered the deportation of the school's Turkish staff and their families - some 450 people, accusing the school of having ties to the Gülen movement, following a visit from Turkish President Erdogan to Pakistan.

I ask that you urge the Pakistani authorities to drop any actions to deport this family. They are simply educators. Undoubtedly, they will face unlawful imprisonment if sent back to Turkey. Ever since the failed coup of July 2016, the Turkish government has disturbingly put forward a crackdown on magistrates, teachers, journalists and many others, a crackdown often based on unsupported claims and unfounded allegations.

Best regards
Ana Gomes

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Member of the European Parliament

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