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Stavros Lambrinidis

European Union's Special Representative for Human Rights

Brussels, 17 May 2018

Dear Stavros,

I am writing to you concerning the case of Abdirahman Rashid Mohamud who has been held in a detention centre in Oslo for more than a month, after being sent from Germany through the Dublin system.

M. Mohamud is from Ogaden in the Somali region of Ethiopia, and was a part of the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF), a separatist group which fights for the right of self-determination. He has fled Ethiopia after facing torture by the military. Most of his family members are in prison, and one of his brothers was killed. His case is gradually getting media coverage in Norway, which he was afraid of since his family might be killed in consequence of his actions.

In Ethiopia, the State of Emergency has not yet been revoked by the recently-appointed government, and the situation in the country remains uncertain. The TPLF/EPRDF regime continues to demonstrate its disrespect for fundamental human rights, imposing repression and torture upon the Ethiopian people.

Due to his past actions and his affiliation with the ONLF, M. Mohamud faces certain persecution and imprisonment if sent back to Ethiopia. I have received reports explaining that in Norway, there is a lack of knowledge of this conflict and of the consequences refugees face if deported.

I urge you to engage with the Norwegian authorities and the UNHCR to shed light on this issue, and act to prevent any case of forceful or wrongful deportation of Ethiopians living in the EU.

Best regards

Ana Gomes

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Member of the European Parliament