

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Baroness Catherine Ashton of Upholland
Vice-President/High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Andris Piebalgs
Commissioner for Development

Brussels, 24th September 2013

Dear Cathy, Dear Andris,

We are writing to express concern over the health situation of Ms. Reeyot Alemu, nominee for the Sakharov Prize 2013, who is jailed in Kaliti prison and who was on hunger strike from September 11th to the 15th. She was protesting the fact that she can only be visited by her parents and a religious Father. We also have reports that Ms. Alemu finds herself in an extremely difficult predicament in Kaliti prison, with deteriorating health and sharing the cell with an abusive inmate.

We hereby call you to urge, as soon as possible, the Ethiopian authorities to take immediate action, by not only ensuring that Ms. Alemu has access to proper medical treatment, but also by improving her detention conditions and putting an end to the abovementioned visitor restrictions. It would be extremely helpful if the EU Delegation would request to visit Ms. Alemu, so that we could get first hand information on her condition.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Barbara Lochbihler (Greens/EFA), Chair of the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights

Ana Gomes (S&D)

Jacek Protasiewicz (EPP)

Jean-Jacob Bicep (Greens/EFA)

Jörg Leichtfried (S&D)