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Federica Mogherini

High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission

Brussels, 10 October 2018

*Dear Federica,*

I would like to bring to your attention the continuous precarious situation of Ethiopian returnees from Saudi Arabia.

It is estimated by the IOM that 500 000 Ethiopians will be affected by Saudi Arabia's government cracking down on irregular migrants. Until now, 78% of returnees in Ethiopia were involuntary, out of the 180 000 estimated to have arrived.

These returnees suffer greatly from the deportation: in fact, "in interviews with The Associated Press upon their arrival home, the returnees described beatings, theft and stays in dirty prison camps."<sup>1</sup> They reported being robbed from their possessions by the police.

Until now, the Ethiopian government does not seem to have been able to put in place the necessary provisions to receive and help their returnees. IOM estimated that 1.5 million dollars are needed for immediate post-arrival emergency, and 23.8 million dollars for reintegration assistance. These returnees are extremely vulnerable because of everything they went through, and there are no mechanisms to help them.

I urge the European Commission to fund a programme and encourage and assist the Ethiopian government to put in place mechanisms to reinsert these returnees in decent conditions and reintegrate them in society. This is a human rights need and will also facilitate the consolidation of the political transition in Ethiopia.

*Best regards,*

Ana Gomes

Member of the European Parliament

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.voanews.com/a/ethiopian-migrants-report-abuse-during-saudi-arabia-deportations/4182407.html>

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