

Brussels,
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Ms Ana Gomes MEP
European Parliament
Rue Wiertz 60
1047 Brussels

Dear Ana,

I refer to your letter of 9 October 2017 regarding the situation of Mr. Américo Sebastião, a Portuguese entrepreneur kidnapped in Mozambique since 29 July 2016. The EU Delegation in Maputo has been following this matter, which, unfortunately, is not an isolated case.

In recent years, Mozambique has been affected by an increase in abductions targeting entrepreneurs and wealthy individuals and their families, of national and foreign citizenship. These crimes, which initially took place mainly in the area of Maputo, have spread to other regions of the country. This type of incident acquired an additional dimension after 2015, when a political-military conflict resumed in the country, affecting in particular the region of Sofala where the kidnapping of Mr. Sebastião took place.

Such developments are extremely worrying and officials of the European External Action Service have addressed them with the Mozambican authorities on a number of occasions. Messages have been passed encouraging the reinforcement of the rule of law and the fight against impunity, also as a means to improve the image and the stability of the country.

In the specific case of Mr Américo Sebastião, we will continue supporting the Portuguese efforts, while renewing our concerns regarding the general issue of violence against entrepreneurs in the country to Mozambican authorities.

Yours sincerely,



Federica Mogherini