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Ana Gomes

Member of the European Parliament

Ms. Federica Mogherini

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

Brussels, 09 October 2017

Dear Federica,

I am concerned with information that I have received regarding the situation of Mr. Américo Sebastião, a Portuguese citizen who was abducted in Mozambique on July 29, 2016 by unknown individuals and whose whereabouts and physical integrity remain, so far, unknown. Mr. Sebastião is a businessman, having set up a company for timber exploration, in the north of Mozambique.

Since then, all efforts undertaken by his wife, Mrs. Salomé Sebastião, together with their eldest son, Mr. Afonso Sebastião, both with the Mozambican and the Portuguese authorities, have not been successful in producing any information concerning the whereabouts of their husband and father. To date, in spite of Mrs. Sebastião's repeated direct contacts both with Mozambican Police at regional level and at the national Government agencies, the Mozambican authorities have remained utterly silent. She feels that no positive or serious action has so far been undertaken.

In her repeated efforts, Mrs. Sebastião has come to the conclusion that her husband's disappearance is due to vested interests of individuals allegedly with connections to the ruling party, interested in his line of business. She said she received information that other businessmen, mostly citizens of the European Union but not exclusively, have been subjected to similar criminal actions, some later released, others whose whereabouts and physical integrity remain unknown.

I ask you to consult with the Portuguese authorities and instruct the EEAS Delegation in Maputo to actively engage the Mozambican authorities at their highest level to properly clarify what happened to Mr. Sebastião and ensure his safe return.

Best regards,

Ana Gomes

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