

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



Head of Division

MD Africa

AFRICA.1 - Horn of Africa, East Africa and Indian Ocean

Brussels, 06.07.2016
EEAS/ D (2016)

Subject: Eritrean Petition 2016- Saudi Arabia, Jeddah

Dear Petitioner,

The President of the Commission, Mr Jean- Claude Juncker has asked me to reply directly to your petition.

Thank you for your petition on the reports of the UN Human Rights Council's Commission of Inquiry and Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Eritrea.

The European Union considers that the findings of the report by the Commission of Inquiry on the human rights situation in Eritrea published on 8 June 2016 are disturbing and a reason for serious concern.

The respect for human rights is a basic principle of the EU's foreign policy and therefore is part of our relations with Eritrea. The EU addresses regularly human rights issues with the Government of the State of Eritrea.

As regards your request for continued engagement with Eritrea, the EU follows a policy of engagement to improve the human rights situation and living conditions of Eritrean people.

Current EU support is focusing on enhanced food security through the improvement of agricultural production and yields. Furthermore, EU cooperation includes projects in the field of human rights, focussing on the implementation of UN Universal Periodic Review recommendations, as well as other projects benefitting directly the population.

The final objective of the EU's engagement is to assist the people of Eritrea to enjoy a peaceful life in a rewarding environment.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Wiedey', is written over the typed name.

Claudia Wiedey