

Brussels, 09.12.2010
CAB 11/SS/tm sv(2010)911579

Dear Keith,

Thank you for your letter regarding the case of Ms. Birtukan Mideksa in Ethiopia.

Ms Birtukan was released from prison on Wednesday, 6 October 2010. I am delighted that she can now be reunited with her family.

I also want to draw your attention to the statement that HR/VP Catherine Ashton made on the pardon of Ms Birtukan Mideksa on 7 October 2010. The HR/VP welcomed the completion of the traditional justice process facilitated by the Coalition of Elders which led to the pardon granted to Ms Birtukan Mideksa in accordance with Ethiopian law.

Like you, the Commission closely followed the detention of Ms Birtukan Mideksa to encourage the Ethiopian authorities to treat her case in conformity with Ethiopia's laws and with respect for Ms. Mideksa's legal and human rights.

I sincerely hope that Ms Mideksa's release will make a contribution to the democratic development of Ethiopia.

Yours sincerely,



Andris Piebalgs

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