



**Ana GOMES**

Mr. Paolo Gentiloni  
Prime Minister of Italy

Brussels, 22 February 2017

*Dear Prime Minister,*

I am informed by Portuguese lawyer Manuel Magalhães e Silva that Ms Sabrina de Sousa, an American-Portuguese former CIA Agent, is to be extradited from Portugal to Italy as she was sentenced by an Italian court to four years in jail for participation in the kidnaping, sequestration and torture in Egypt of Abu Omar, the Imam of the Milano mosque, which took place in the framework of the extraordinary renditions programme carried out by the George W. Bush administration.

I have known Ms Sabrina de Sousa and helped her come to Portugal in 2015, with the purpose of clearing her name, since she always claimed to be innocent but was unable to attend the trial in Italy and defend herself because the CIA and US Administration prevented her from attending.

In Portugal, she was arrested and told Portuguese magistrates she was ready and eager to face a second trial in Italy. That was the formal guarantee given by the European Arrest Warrant issued by Italian authorities upon which the Portuguese Court authorised the extradition. But last June, when the decision of the Portuguese Court was already res judicata, the Italian Ministry of Justice informed the Portuguese Attorney General that no second trial would take place, "as the defendant has not been judged in absentia" and therefore Ms. Sabrina de Sousa would go straight to jail to serve the sentence.

Denying a second trial to Ms Sabrina de Sousa is adding injustice to the injustice already done: as everyone in Italy knows well, the main Italian and American culprits for the kidnaping and torture of Abu Omar have been protected and spared from facing justice under the State secret declared by the Government of Prime Minister Berlusconi on the affair. That is the reason why Prosecutor Armando Spataro could only indict low level CIA officers, most of them covered by aliases and Ms Sabrina de Sousa. Abu Omar himself is on the record stating that Ms de Sousa is but a scapegoat.

Ms de Sousa is to be extradited to Italy in the next few days but her case is already being considering by the European Court of Human Rights.

I urge you, Prime Minister, to request without delay a second trial and to use your powers to allow Ms de Sousa to wait in Italy, outside jail but under any some form of control by the police and the judicial authorities, for that trial.

I urge you as well to immediately lift the State secret imposed by the government of Mr Berlusconi in order to enable the Italian justice to complete the investigation and bring to trial the real culprits who are top officials of the CIA and of the Italian Secret Services.

Ana Gomes  
Member of the European Parliament

*Best regards*  
*Ana Gomes*