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Prime Minister
Dr. Joseph Muscat
Office of the Prime Minister
Auberge de Castille
Valletta VLT 1061

Valletta, 18th November 2018

Dear Prime Minister,

We, the undersigned MEPs, met last night with the crew of Seawatch and Lifeline to get an insight into the current situation of Search and Rescue (SAR) NGOs boats and aircraft that are being impounded in Malta.

It is with great concern that we call on you, as Prime Minister, to end the unlawful detention in Malta of SAR boats and the Moonbird aircraft and give them clearance to leave the harbour. A humanitarian act such as rescue at sea is not a crime and should never be criminalised. While we are witnessing an increased number of deaths at sea and a deteriorating security situation in Libya, saving lives at sea should remain the priority.

As members of the European Parliament who supported the European Parliament Position for a reform of the Dublin regulation that has at its core solidarity and responsibility-sharing, we will continue to stand with you for a fair distribution between EU Member States of the people rescued at sea. You can be assured that in the meantime, while we wait on the Council to adopt its position, we will use all the means at our disposal to convince Member States to relocate people that will be disembarked in Malta.

Yours sincerely,

Martina Anderson, MEP, GUE/NGL

Jean Lambert, MEP, Greens/EFA

Peter Niedermüller, MEP, S&D