

To the Minister of Foreign Affairs
Massimo D'Alema

Bergamo, January 17, 2007

Honourable D'Alema,
yesterday I learnt that, despite the commitment ensured on the 14th of December 2006 by the undersecretary Li Gotti on behalf of the Government in front of Italian Parliament, as far as the case of my husband Abou Elkassim Britel is concerned, no concrete measure entailing the prisoner's immediate release has been taken yet.

I rely on the fact that You may understand my increasing frustration and disdain for each further day my husband, an innocent person, is spending secluded in a Moroccan jail.

I'm totally aware of the fact that the previous Government is mainly to be blamed for the violation of the human rights inflicted upon my husband, but this does not justify, in my humble opinion, the present Government's lack of interest in such a humanitarian case.

The letter You sent as an answer to the European Parliamentarians Chiesa and Catania contains the same words I've been being addressed by the Embassy of Rabat for a long time: words that are not able to achieve any concrete result. The fight for the release of my husband has been, up to now, a long process I have been carrying out by myself: I expect more than mere words from Your Government.

Kassim has been enduring unnameable violence and his life is still in constant danger. The failed release, of which he learned last year, deeply affected him, as You may have understood from the letter I brought to Italy from my latest travel to Morocco. During the last months we felt our hopes renewed by TDIP Commission, by the dismissal of the inquiry held against us and by the parliamentary question as well. Will this nightmare ever come to an end?

Minister, we are exhausted and keep on claiming for nothing but the fulfilment of our human rights. We really cannot wait any further. I dare remind You that in April 2006 Mister Abdellatif Merroun, British Citizen with a double citizenship was pardoned as soon as British Government appointed an experienced International Lawyer. In our case such a formal measure would not be required, but Your intervention or the intervention of any other high echelon of the state would be far enough to the fulfilment of our hopes. It is not a favour we are asking for, but an act of justice.

I don't want to sound too blunt, but it is hard to accept the fact that Christmas holidays may have represented a hindrance to the release of Kassim. In any case, if those were the real causes, I pray You now to intercede for Abou Elkassim Britel as soon as possible. You are undoubtedly in the position to do that.

Yours sincerely.

Khadija Anna L. Pighizzini
Via Palazzolo 23m
24122 Bergamo
tel. 329 1691049
e-mail: elkassim@libero.it