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**FOREF Europe** (Forum for Religious Freedom), **Office:** Seidengasse 28/4, 1070 Vienna, AUSTRIA  
**President:** Dr. Aaron Rhodes, **Executive Director:** Peter Zoehrer  
**Phone:** +43 6645238794, **E-mail:** foref.office@gmail.com, **Website:** [foref.info](http://foref.info), **Blog:** [www.foref-europe.org](http://www.foref-europe.org)

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OPEN LETTER

Honorable Koen Geens  
Minister of Justice  
Waterloolan 115  
1000 Brussels

July 18, 2018

Dear Mr. Geens,

I am writing on behalf of the Forum for Religious Freedom Europe, an independent, nongovernmental human rights monitoring organization based in Vienna.

We have received information concerning Ms. Kaoutar Fal, a citizen of Morocco born 18/08/1986, with passport number BG8782519 and a valid Belgian visa, who is currently held in detention in the Repatriation Center 127bis, Tervuursesteenweg 300, 1820 Steenokkerzeel.

Ms. Fal was taken into custody at the European Parliament on 11 July 2018, after being released from a prior detention by court order the day before, under circumstances that appear highly irregular. She was eventually delivered to the Federal Police facility at Rue Royale 202. Ms. Fal was detained by unidentified persons. She was only handed over to Police at Rue Royale 202, hours after intensive searches by friends and relatives. According to information we have received, Federal police have no records concerning the reasons for her abduction/capture nor the identities of the abducting parties.

Following her prior arrest, the police and the Immigration Service (DVZ) were ordered on 10 July 2018 by the Court of Appeal, Reference No. 2018/2525, to release Ms. Fal immediately. These legal demands have not been obeyed by order of the Interior Ministry and State Secretary on Migration as mentioned above.

As of this date, Ms Fal remains in custody under very poor conditions.

At the least, this case raises very serious questions that must be clarified if we are to believe your government adheres to the human rights standards to which it has committed itself, as a party to the European Convention on Human Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Your immediate attention to this issue will be most appreciated.

Sincerely,

Aaron Rhodes, President