

Attorney General
The Palace
VLT 1115 – Valletta
MALTA

Your Excellency,

I am writing to you concerning three young Africans known as the "El Hiblu 3". They were rescued by a cargo ship, El Hiblu, as they were fleeing Libya in March 2019 along with more than 100 other people. The three youths helped the chief officer of the ship by interpreting his words and calming the panicked passengers. As the ship entered Malta's waters, the three teenagers, who were 15, 16 and 19 years old at the time, were accused of 'hijacking' the ship. They were arrested, charged with several serious offences, and detained. After 8 months in detention, they were released on bail but the charges against them are still pending. More than two years since they were unfairly accused, the El Hiblu 3 are still waiting for justice. The investigation continues and it is questionable whether the three will get a fair trial.

I urge you to drop all charges against the El Hiblu 3 and close the case before trial.

Yours sincerely,

Copy:

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