



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**Javier SOLANA,
EU High Representative for the CFSP,
met today Mrs Souhayr BELHASSEN,
President of the International Federation of Human Rights**

Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), met today Mrs. Souhayr BELHASSEN, President of the International Federation of Human Rights. He was accompanied by his Personal Representative for Human Rights Mrs. Riina Kionka.

The meeting took place when celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are being prepared. The EU, for which human rights are a fundamental value, will duly commemorate this event.

The High Representative underlined the need to do more to defend and promote human rights. On the specific question of Women's rights, Mrs Belhassen suggested that the EU might develop Guidelines on Women's Rights. Mr Solana acknowledged the importance of this issue and stressed that promoting women's rights was part of the EU's political dialogue with third countries and in connection with development policy.

On the question of counterterrorism, Javier Solana assured Mrs Belhassen that EU counterterrorism efforts were conducted in full respect of human rights.

The High Representative and Mrs Belhassen also discussed the situation of human rights in several regions of world.

Concerning the present situation in Kenya, they agreed on the very serious nature of the crisis. Mr Solana said that the EU supported all efforts deployed for a political solution, in particular those led by the African Union and the United Nations, and that he was in close contact with former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan on this matter.

On Burma/Myanmar, the High Representative recalled the efforts being deployed by the European Union, through Special Envoy Piero Fassino, in close coordination with UN Special Advisor Ibrahim Gambari.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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