



EUROPEAN UNION

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**Statement by the Spokesperson
of High Representative Catherine Ashton
on Guinea Bissau**

The spokesperson of High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President of the Commission Catherine Ashton issued the following statement today:

"High Representative Catherine Ashton expresses her dismay with the recent appointment of Major General Antonio Indjai, to the post of Chief of Defence staff, as he was the main responsible for the mutiny of April in Guinea-Bissau.

The High Representative recalls her serious concern regarding Vice Admiral José Zamora Induta's unlawful detention and calls upon the authorities of Guinea-Bissau to bring an end to it.

She remains concerned about the situation of impunity regarding the perpetrators of serious violations of the law in the country that undermine the effective primacy of the civilian over the military, which is a key component of democracy and the rule of law.

She considers that the present situation may constitute a violation of the engagements of the Guinea-Bissau with respect to human rights, democracy and rule of law, essential elements within the Cotonou Agreement, calling for a review of the overall engagement of the European Union in Guinea-Bissau.

P R E S S

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