



EUROPEAN UNION

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Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the release of remaining political activists in Azerbaijan

The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission issued the following statement today:

I welcome with great satisfaction the release on June 22 of the remaining nine imprisoned participants of the peaceful rally held on April 2, 2011. This is a laudable step taken by Azerbaijan in its efforts to restore civil and political rights in the country and to gradually move on the path of ensuring the freedoms of assembly and of speech.

I hope that this decision will also encourage further actions to ensure full protection of fundamental rights and freedoms and to fulfill the country's international commitments with regards to democracy and the rule of law.

The EU remains committed to assist Azerbaijan in this endeavour.

P R E S S

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