



EUROPEAN UNION

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## Statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the situation in Egypt

Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, made today the following statement:

*"I am following the situation in Egypt very closely and with deep concern. I welcome the peaceful manner in which most demonstrations have been conducted thus far, but I find continuing cases of sexual abuse of female protesters deeply troubling. I urge all sides to show restraint and reiterate my call to respect the principle of peaceful protest and non-violence.*

*Confrontation cannot be a solution. The only solution to the present impasse can only be political on the basis of a substantial and inclusive dialogue as wished by the Egyptian people, and founded on democratic principles and respect for fundamental rights. I reiterate the EU's steadfast commitment to stand by the Egyptian people in their endeavour toward democratic transition, and offer the EU's support to assist all political forces in finding a peaceful solution.*

*I offer my deepest condolences to the families of those killed in the protests and hope that those injured will recover quickly."*

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**P R E S S**

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