



EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 26 February 2010
A 26/10

**Statement by
the spokesperson of HR Catherine Ashton,
on the acts of violence in Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh**

The spokesperson of Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, issued the following statement today on the acts of violence in Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh:

"The EU strongly condemns the acts of violence that took place in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) in Bangladesh on 19 and 20 February 2010.

The EU has received reports that in a number of villages in the Rangamati District, and notably in Gangarmodor Baghaihat, a number of people belonging to indigenous groups have been killed, up to 400 houses belonging to the indigenous population of the area burned down and a similar number of indigenous families displaced. The EU is aware of allegations that the incident involved army personnel and labourers employed by the army.

The EU calls upon the Government of Bangladesh to swiftly and thoroughly follow up with an independent investigation of this incident and of the allegations that the armed forces were involved. The EU calls upon the Government of Bangladesh to ensure that the perpetrators of these shameful acts are brought to justice.

It is the constitutional responsibility of the Government of Bangladesh to ensure the protection and the fundamental rights of all its citizens. Incidents such as this have no place in an inclusive and tolerant society.

The EU is also concerned about the wider impact that this violence may have on the stability of the CHT region as well as on Bangladesh's international reputation, and calls on the relevant authorities in Bangladesh to take more effective measures to implement the CHT Peace Accord."

P R E S S

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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