



EUROPEAN UNION

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## **Statement by the spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the outcome of the recent appeal trial of Mr Cu Huy Ha Vu in Vietnam**

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:

*"The High Representative expresses her serious concern over the rejection, on 2nd August, by the Supreme People's Court, of lawyer Cu Huy Ha Vu's appeal against the 4 April Hanoi People's Court decision sentencing him to seven years in prison and another three years of supervised probation.*

*The High Representative is very concerned by the treatment received by Mr Vu, the failure to respect due process and the upholding of the sentence at the appeal.*

*Such failure to uphold the law and the fundamental right of all persons to hold opinions and freely and peacefully express them - in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) to which Vietnam is a party - is particularly disappointing in light of Vietnam's good economic progress and its stated ambition to take a greater and more responsible place in the world.*

*The High Representative expresses her goodwill and readiness to continue to work in partnership with Vietnam on these and other human rights and rule of law issues, so that Vietnam's full potential can be realised".*

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**P R E S S**

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