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Statement by the Spokesperson of the EU High Representative, Catherine Ashton, on the Bill amending the Amnesty Law in Suriname

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 has noted that the National Assembly of Suriname has approved the amendment to the Surinamese Amnesty Law of 1989. This amendment will have an important impact on the ongoing judicial process concerning human rights violations committed in the 1980's, including the murder of political opponents on December 8, 1982.

It is important that all Surinamese, public authorities and citizens, regardless of political affiliation, join together and work to consolidate the ongoing healing and reconciliation process in the country. Reconciliation and justice go hand in hand, and should be ensured within the framework of the basic principles of the separation of powers and the respect of Suriname's international commitments.

The EU attaches great importance to the respect of the rule of law, accountability and independence of the judiciary as fundamental principles of democratic society."

P R E S S

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