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

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 is following with concern the latest developments in Egypt and deeply deplores the loss of life during yesterday's demonstrations. She calls on the responsible interim authorities to ensure peaceful and orderly demonstrations. She also calls on all actors to refrain from violence and to respect the principles of peaceful protest and non-violence. Human Rights, including the fundamental freedoms of association and expression must be respected.

The High Representative emphasised that confrontation is not a solution. The only solution is a rapid move to an inclusive transformation process. Reconciliation and dialogue are paramount at this critical juncture. There is no room for hate-speech and other forms of incitement. All political groups, including the Muslim Brotherhood, must be involved in the transformation process, which should lead to a constitutional order, free and fair elections and a civilian-led government. A credible return to a democratic transition requires political steering and discourse with no interference from actors outside the democratic framework.

The High Representative remains in ongoing contact with key interlocutors and calls on all political groups to continue their efforts to find a peaceful solution for a stable, prosperous and democratic Egypt. The EU will continue to stand by the Egyptian people and support their democratic aspirations. The High Representative recalls previous statements insisting on the release of all political detainees, including Mohammed Morsi and his close advisors; announcing new charges at this time will not contribute to the constructive environment Egypt needs now."

P R E S S

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