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Statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the attack in the Middle East

Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission, made the following statement:

"I strongly condemn the terrorist attack that has killed four Israeli civilians near the city of Hebron. I extend my sympathies to the family and friends of those killed.

With this unacceptable attack, the enemies of peace have tried to derail the Middle East peace talks. But we are determined not to let these enemies of peace have their way.

I call upon the parties of the talks which begin on Thursday in Washington to engage with determination in the negotiations. It is imperative that both parties keep calm and exercise restraint even through difficult times to make progress towards a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region.

The European Union remains committed, along with its partners in the Quartet as well as Arab countries, to support successful negotiations, which are in the interest of Israelis and Palestinians, the peoples of the region and the international community. This attack underlines the urgency of a two-state solution with the State of Israel and an independent, democratic, contiguous and viable State of Palestine, living side by side in peace and security with each other and their neighbours."

P R E S S

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