Brussels, 14 October 2013
131014/03

STATEMENT

by the Spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton
on recent violent events in Guinea Bissau

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 concerned about the recent violent events in Guinea Bissau. She condemns the attacks against the Embassy of Nigeria and Nigerian citizens, as well as the acts of violence perpetrated by individuals of the military and security forces against Guinea-Bissauan citizens.

These acts go against the rule of law and the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms. They undermine the environment of peace, reconciliation and confidence necessary for progress in the transition process. Every effort should be undertaken to bring perpetrators before justice and for these acts not to be repeated.

The High Representative reiterates her firm support to the continued efforts of ECOWAS, the United Nations, the African Union and the Community of Portuguese Language Countries, and all those who strive for a peaceful transition to be concluded as soon as possible through inclusive and credible elections, in order to create the foundations of a stable and peaceful democracy in Guinea Bissau. In that respect, the High Representative looks forward to the announcement of the electoral calendar as promised by the transition authorities."

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