STATEMENT

by the Spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the recent events 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 has followed with great concern the reports on recent events in Egypt. The reported use of force, arrests and disproportionate sentences can only impede the country's transition to democracy. Moreover, such measures, including under the new law on demonstrations, violate the rights and the aspirations of the Egyptian people and will never deliver real and sustainable security for the Egyptian population.

As the High Representative stated following her meeting with the Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister, Ziad Bahaa El-Deen on 27 November, fundamental human rights have to be respected at all times. This is particularly important now when Egypt is in the finalising stages of drafting the revised Constitution which should safeguard the rights and obligations of all Egyptians."

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