STATEMENT

by the Spokesperson of EU High Representative on the introduction of the first stage of implementation of the 2013 Penal Code Order in Brunei

"We note the introduction of the first stage of the 2013 Penal Code Order on 1 May 2014, as well as the stated intention of the Brunei authorities to introduce more severe punishments into the statute books of Brunei in the future.

We are concerned about the consistency of the possible application of such penalties with Brunei’s international human rights commitments, in particular those related to the prohibition of torture and cruel and degrading treatment or punishment, the rights of the child, the freedom of religion and expression, and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. Such concerns have been raised by the EU and its Member States both in bilateral contacts as well as in the context of the Universal Periodic Review of Brunei, which took place in Geneva on 2 May.

The European Union underlines the importance for Brunei to observe its commitments assumed under international human rights law."

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