STATEMENT

by the spokesperson on the murder of French photojournalist Camille Lepage in the Central African Republic (CAR)

"It is with great sadness that we have received news of the death of the French journalist Camille Lepage in the Central African Republic. We offer our condolences to her family and friends, and express our support at this difficult time.

We strongly condemn this heinous murder, which follows other attacks on the freedom of the press, such as the recent assassination of two CAR journalists. We call for every effort to be made to identify those responsible for these assassinations and bring them to justice.

The European Union remains determined to defend all journalists in exercising their profession and in upholding the values of that profession. The freedom and independence of the press are essential to democracy, the rule of law and the promotion of good governance.

The European Union reafﬁrms its commitment to resolving the security and humanitarian crisis in the Central African Republic."

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