Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the political situation in Thailand

Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, has today made the following statement:

"I have been deeply saddened by the loss of life in Bangkok and elsewhere in Thailand. May I offer my sincere condolences to the bereaved families, both Thai and foreign. The violence has solved nothing, but only harmed Thailand and its people, by deepening divisions rather than healing them.

National reconciliation is now an absolute necessity. An essential part of that must be to find a consensus among the parties on building a more inclusive society.

I hope that the Thai nation will look ahead and seek a pragmatic solution. A basis for that could be the five point roadmap proposed by PM Abhisit on 3 May.

I call on the authorities to restore public order in the full respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms. I call on the demonstrators to engage with the Government in a constructive manner, without resorting to violence, working together for the good of the country.

As a friend of Thailand, the EU cannot remain indifferent. I stand ready to help in the process of building consensus towards national reconciliation."

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