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Statement by the spokesperson of Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative/Commission Vice-President on the human rights situation in Sudan

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 on the human rights situation in Sudan:

"Catherine Ashton condemns the recent arbitrary arrest and detention of Darfuri human rights activists and journalists by the Sudanese authorities. Over the last few days 13 Sudanese staff of Radio Dabanga and the organisation Human Rights and Advocacy Network for Democracy (HAND) are reported to have been arrested in Khartoum.

She is concerned for the welfare of these individuals and call for their release and for the Government of Sudan to abide by its obligations under international human rights law.

These arrests appear to be part of a broader pattern of harassment and intimidation of Sudanese civil society actors. The EU is also concerned about the harassment and detention of individuals in Darfur following the recent visit of the UN Security Council.

It is essential that human rights and basic freedoms are respected for there to be a peaceful resolution of the Darfur conflict."

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