Statement by the spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on journalists and human rights defenders 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 is deeply concerned about incoming reports on the increasing number of attacks and arrests of journalists and human rights defenders in Egypt. She calls for their immediate and unconditional release by the Egyptian authorities.

The intimidation, harassment and detention of journalists and human rights defenders is completely unacceptable. Human rights and freedom of speech are fundamental values and need to be respected. Journalists and human rights defenders must be allowed to do their jobs."