Statement by the EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the killing of a Polish priest in Tunisia

Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission, made today the following statement:

"I was dismayed at the announcement of the death of the Polish Catholic Priest Marek Rybinski, who was found killed in Tunisia, and wish to offer my sincere condolences to his family. Tunisia has traditionally been a land of religious tolerance and I underline the importance that this be preserved in order to build a fully democratic rule based on the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Freedom of religion or belief is a universal human right which needs to be protected everywhere and for everyone. Therefore I call upon the Tunisian authorities to continue to protect and safeguard the right of citizens to practice their religion freely, without fear of intolerance and attacks.

This crime should be investigated and the perpetrators should be brought to justice."