Statement by the High Representative, Catherine Ashton, on the treatment of opposition groups in Iran, and the situations of Mir Hossein Mossavi and Mehdi Karroubi

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 remain very concerned about the treatment of Mr Mehdi Karroubi and Mr Mir Hossein Moussavi. It remains unclear – despite efforts to secure verifiable information - whether they are under house arrest or otherwise imprisoned. I urge the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran simply to grant them the freedom of movement to which they have a right.

I further condemn the unacceptable repression to which representatives of many political and civil society groups in Iran are now routinely subjected, and call on the Iranian authorities to respect the right to freedom of movement, and communication, of all those held in arbitrary detention or under house arrest.

In conformity with its international obligations, notably those under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which Iran has freely ratified, Iran has the same duty as every other state-party to respect the fundamental rights of all its citizens."

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