Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton
on the execution of a juvenile offender in Iran

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

"I condemn in the strongest terms the public execution today of Mr Alireza Molla-Soltani in Iran. Mr Soltani was under 18 at the time of his alleged offence. This execution therefore stands in clear contravention to Iran's international obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The EU has expressed several times its concern at the alarming rate of executions in Iran this year and utterly condemns the practice of carrying them out in public or by suspension hanging. I reiterate the EU's call on Iran to declare a moratorium on the death penalty in line with the growing global trend towards abolition of this punishment."

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