Statement by the spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the death of Laura POLLÁN

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:

"High Representative Catherine Ashton was saddened to learn about the death of Laura Pollán, a founder and leader of the Ladies in White (Damas de Blanco). She extends her condolences to the family and friends.

Laura Pollán was a dedicated human rights activist who worked tirelessly for the release of political prisoners in Cuba. Her efforts, in cooperation with the Cuban Catholic Church, contributed to the release earlier this year of the remaining prisoners of the 75 imprisoned during the Black Spring in 2003, as well as other political prisoners.

Her death is a great loss for Cuba."