Statement by the spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the aerial bombarding by the Sudan Armed Forces in South Sudan

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

"The High Representative strongly condemns the aerial bombardment carried out by the Sudanese Armed Forces in Upper Nile and Unity States in South Sudan, including an attack on a temporary camp at Yida for displaced and refugee populations who have fled from violence in Southern Kordofan. She is extremely concerned about these attacks, which have resulted in the death of civilians. She calls on the Sudanese Armed Forces to put an immediate halt to aerial bombings in the border areas.

Such attacks represent a dangerous escalation of the situation and serve to increase tension at a time when Sudan and South Sudan need to reach a negotiated solution on outstanding issues. The High Representative urges both sides to exercise restraint and refrain from interference in each other's territories.

These attacks underline the urgent need to resolve the conflict in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile through the resumption of political talks between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement - Northern Sector."

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