Statement by the Spokesperson of EU High Representative, Catherine Ashton, on the political situation in Guinea-Bissau

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 today:

"The first round of the presidential elections in the Republic of Guinea-Bissau took place in a generally calm and orderly environment.

Nevertheless, the High Representative is concerned about a number of worrying events, including the killing of a former deputy Chief of Intelligence in Bissau, which highlights the risk of further instability in the country.

The High Representative urges the authorities to assume their responsibilities and ensure the security of all citizens, in full compliance with national and international law.

She urges the national authorities and all political groups to prove their sense of responsibility by refraining from any form of violence or threats. The next phases of the electoral process must take place in a transparent and peaceful environment, in strict compliance with existing laws and in full respect of Human Rights."

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