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Statement by the Spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton on the reckless destruction of historical heritage in Mali

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 High Representative is deeply concerned about the wanton and ruthless destruction of mausoleums and holy shrines in Timbuktu. This appears to be a deliberate attempt to destroy a valued and ancient part of the religious and cultural heritage not only of Mali’s people but of the whole world. These sacred places of prayer, listed by UNESCO as World Heritage, must be protected now and for posterity. The High Representative condemns all such acts of destruction and reaffirms the EU’s commitment to support the Malian people in the re-establishment of legitimate and accountable government throughout the country."

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