EUROPEAN UNION

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Statement by the spokesperson of High Representative
Catherine Ashton on the release of Pastor Nadarkhani in Iran

The spokesperson of 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:

"The High Representative welcomes the acquittal and subsequent release, on 8 September 2012, of Pastor Nadarkhani, after three years of incarceration. The European Union and the High Representative personally had been constantly advocating his release to the Iranian authorities since his arrest.

The High Representative calls for the respect of freedom of religion and belief in Iran in line with its international obligations and hopes that this positive development will serve as an example for other similar cases."

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