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Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the wave of violent attacks against diplomatic missions

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

I condemn in the strongest terms the attacks against diplomatic missions in several countries which are part of a wave of violence and have now led to the loss of lives and destruction of property in several cities. I want to state very clearly that there can be no justification for such violence. I condemn those who use religion to fuel extremism.

I am following the unfolding of events with grave concern and call on national authorities in all countries concerned to swiftly ensure the security of diplomatic missions and protect diplomatic staff. It is vitally important that leaders across the affected regions should call immediately for peace and restraint, as has already been the case in many countries. I call on all governments and the religious and secular leaders to promote tolerance and dialogue.