Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the execution of a Pakistani soldier

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 deeply regret the execution of a Pakistani soldier, Muhammed Hussain, on Thursday at a jail in Punjab province. This breaks the de facto moratorium observed by Pakistan for the past four years and goes against the global abolitionist trend. It also undercuts the recent announcement by the government, raising the possibility of introducing legislation to abolish the death penalty.

The European Union is opposed to the use of capital punishment in all cases and under any circumstances. I call on the Pakistani authorities to reintroduce the moratorium on executions as a first step towards definitive abolition of capital punishment. "

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