Joint Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton and Commissioner Štefan Füle on the assassination of Chokri Belaid in Tunisia

Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission, and Štefan Füle, Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, have today issued the following statement:

"We condemn in the strongest possible terms the assassination this morning of Mr Chokri Belaid, leader of the Unified Democratic Patriots Party. We express our sincere condolences both to the victim's family and to the leaders and members of the Unified Democratic Patriots Party.

We hope that the Tunisian authorities will conduct a full investigation into this assassination so that those responsible for Mr Belaid's murder are brought to justice.

The growing number of acts of violence committed by extremist groups, including the Committees to Protect the Revolution, are a threat to the transition process now underway.

Everything must be done to put an end to the activities of these violent groups. It is in the interests of all the citizens of Tunisia that the political transition process should be allowed to go forward, in accordance with the law and in a spirit of constructive and peaceful dialogue."

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