Statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the killing of Mohamed Brahmi in Tunisia

"I condemn in the strongest terms today's assassination of the opposition MP Mohamed Brahmi which happened on the day of the anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic.

I extend my condolences to the family and friends of the victim as well as activists and members of his party. The EU calls on Tunisian authorities to investigate the murder without delay and bring to justice those responsible. I also stress that murderers of Choukri Belaid killed on February 6 have still not been arrested and brought to justice.

These political assassinations represent attacks by enemies of democracy against the Republic, the Tunisian people and the values of the revolution of January 14, 2011.

The EU believes that the rapid completion of the drafting of the constitution and organization of the next general elections are the best answer to these cowardly attacks. It is now for the political parties of the government and the opposition as well as for the civil society of Tunisia committed to democratic values to find the necessary compromises in a spirit of consensus, tolerance and mutual respect.

The EU calls on all political, economic and social as well as civil society activists to lend their support to a peaceful and democratic response to today's killing."

P R E S S

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