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S T A T E M E N T

by the Spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the sentencing of political activists in Egypt

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

"The High Representative is concerned about the guilty verdict, the prison sentences and the financial penalty handed down by a court in Egypt against political activists Ahmed Maher, a founder of the April 6 Movement, Ahmed Douma and Mohammed Adel. These sentences appear to be based on the recently enacted protest law which is widely seen as limiting excessively freedom of expression and assembly. The High Representative expresses the hope that these sentences could be reviewed in an appeals process.

Stressing the importance of protecting freedom of expression and assembly for the successful completion of the interim government's roadmap, the High Representative also expressed concern at the recent raid on the offices of the Egyptian Centre for Economic and Social Rights.

The High Representative reaffirmed the European Union's support for a sustainable democracy that meets the aspirations of the Egyptian people and its readiness to cooperate with Egyptians to see their transition succeed."

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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