



EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 13 September 2013
A 456/13

Statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on child marriage in Yemen

Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, made today the following statement:

"I am appalled by reports of the death of an 8 year old Yemeni girl from serious injuries, including internal bleeding, sustained on her wedding night. I urge the Yemeni authorities to investigate this case without delay and to prosecute all those responsible for this crime. I call on the Yemeni government to abide by its obligations under international law, including the UN Conventions protecting the rights of the child, of which Yemen is a member, and to immediately reinstate legislation setting a minimum age for marriage, in line with international norms, to prohibit such abuse of children.

The onus is on the Yemeni authorities to put in place a legislative framework to counter practices which are patent violations of basic human rights and could result in horrific crimes. Such a course of action is required to ensure consistency with the efforts being made by Yemen, including through its National Dialogue Conference, to make progress on the path of reforms, modernization and protection of human rights."

P R E S S

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

Michael Mann +32 498 999 780 - +32 2 584 97 80 - Michael.Mann@eeas.europa.eu
Maja Kocijancic +32 498 984 425 - +32 2 298 65 70 - Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu
Sébastien Brabant +32 460 75 09 98 - Sebastien.Brabant@ec.europa.eu
Nabila Massrali +32 460 75 41 75 - Nabila.Massrali@ec.europa.eu

www.eeas.europa.eu

Follow us on Twitter @eu_eeas

EN