



Brussels, 31 December 2013
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STATEMENT

by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the release of prisoners of conscience in Myanmar

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 welcome today's pardon of a number of prisoners of conscience. This fulfils the President's commitment that all political prisoners would be released by the end of the year. This is another significant step forward in the country's transition towards democracy.

It demonstrates a growing acknowledgement that allowing a diversity of views is beneficial for national reconciliation and a pluralistic, open society.

The release and pardon also signal that certain pieces of legislation might not be in conformity with the new political realities and aspirations of the country, and could usefully be amended or repealed.

We stand ready to continue supporting Myanmar in these efforts."

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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