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S T A T E M E N T

by the Spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the outbreak of violence in Southern areas of the Republic of Mozambique

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 by the recent outbreak of violence caused by the deployment of armed men, suspected of belonging to the Renamo, in the province of Inhambane. This represents a spreading of the insecurity in the Centre of Mozambique to Southern areas of the country.

The High Representative condemns any use of force as a political means. She deplores the loss of lives and the displacement of local populations due to a continued climate of insecurity.

The High representative calls for an immediate end to armed attacks on civilians and governmental security forces.

She also calls on Renamo and the Government of Mozambique to establish without delay a genuine and constructive political dialogue process with the aim of concrete results towards peaceful reconciliation.

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This is particularly important as the voters' registration process for the Presidential, Parliamentary and Provincial elections scheduled for 2014 will soon start. In this regard it is also important that lessons learned from previous elections contribute to consolidating the path of democracy, leading to sustainable development and to creating a peaceful, prosperous, secure and stable country for all its citizens. The EU stands ready to continue supporting Mozambique in promoting these objectives."
