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S T A T E M E N T

by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on unrest in Venezuela

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 am worried about the continuing unrest in Venezuela, saddened by the reported casualties and alarmed by the detention of students and political figures. I appeal to the relevant authorities to ensure that the accusations brought against them are swiftly, thoroughly and impartially investigated in accordance with due legal process.

I condemn intolerance and the use of violence by all sides. I stress the right to freedom of expression, association and assembly. It is incumbent on the public authorities to ensure that all citizens can exercise these rights freely.

It is essential that journalists and broadcasters are allowed to exercise their profession freely and that citizens and politicians can express their views in the media.

I call upon the government and the opposition to pursue a comprehensive dialogue aimed at meeting the legitimate concerns of the people of Venezuela."

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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