



ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Declaration by the Co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on the suicide attacks on civilians in N'Djamena, Chad

Louis Michel and Fitz Jackson, Co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, wish to express their shock and deep concern regarding the suicide attacks on civilians that occurred on Monday, 15 June, in N'Djamena (Chad), killing at least 23 people and injuring over 100. They condemn in the strongest terms the attack and express their condolences to, and solidarity with, the families of the victims, and their support to the authorities of Chad in the fight against terrorism.

The Co-Presidents call upon the Chad authorities to conduct an immediate investigation in order to bring to justice the perpetrators of these attacks as soon as possible. As the Chadian authorities have stated, early evidence point to Boko Haram militants, four of whom were killed in the attacks, and reiterate their condemnation of Boko Haram terror and violence.

The rapidly increasing threats posed by the jihadist movement Boko Haram and other terrorist groups are a scourge on society, spreading violence and death in their paths, causing immense suffering and fear among populations. Originally a local insurgency in Nigeria, Boko Haram has increasingly become a regional threat and has carried out massacres, abductions and suicide attacks in Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Niger.

The Co-Presidents reiterate their firm and unconditional rejection of all forms of terrorism. They call on ACP and EU States, in the spirit of the Cotonou Agreement, to join efforts and to maintain the fight against terrorism as a key priority of their cooperation.

The Co-Presidents reaffirm their call for greater regional cooperation to address the threats of Boko Haram and other terrorist groups. Terrorist groups operate across borders, which necessitates cross-border coordination of military efforts. The Co-Presidents therefore welcome the five-nation military coalition against Boko Haram.

Suva (Fiji), 17 June 2015