



EUROPEAN UNION

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Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the Opposition unrests in Kyrgyzstan

Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission made the following statement:

"I want to express my deep concern about the developments in Kyrgyzstan, especially in Talas and the latest reports about the events in the capital Bishkek, which have already lead to loss of human lives and dozens of seriously injured.

The arrest of leading personalities from the opposition, including former Prime-Minister Mr. Almazbek Atambayev, the former Speaker of the Parliament Mr. Omurbek Tekebaev, Mr. Isa Omurkulov and Mr. Temir Saryiev, as well as the attempts to restrain the freedom of expression of the population and to limit the media as events unfold raise very serious concern.

I call upon all sides to show restraint and resume immediately the dialogue between the government and the opposition forces, in view of finding a peaceful solution.

Any follow up of these dramatic events must respect the Constitution of Kyrgyzstan and the due process of law, in particular the right for defence of all arrested persons.

At this crucial stage, Kyrgyzstan must stay faithful to its democratic commitment, which has always been strongly supported by the EU."

P R E S S

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