

EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 1 April 2011
A 134/11

**Statement by the spokesperson of
EU High Representative Catherine Ashton
on the attack against the UN office in Mazar, Afghanistan**

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 for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy was deeply shocked by the news that the UN office in Mazar-i-Sharif was stormed by a crowd today, which murdered UN staff members and set the office on fire.

It is understood that the demonstrators had been protesting against the burning of the Koran by a Florida pastor.

This is another unfortunate example of how ignorance, intolerance and senseless aggression can victimise completely innocent people whose only purpose was to help Afghanistan move towards a brighter future.

The EU continues to support the essential work that the UN has been carrying out in Afghanistan.

My deepest condolences go to the families of those who have perished so tragically in this attack."

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EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 23 March 2011

A 121/11

**Statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton
in response to President Karzai's announcement
on transition in Afghanistan**

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

This morning, President Karzai announced the start of the transition process in Afghanistan. The Afghan Government, supported by the international community, is embarking on a crucial period during which strong Afghan leadership will be of the essence.

With leadership comes accountability, both to the Afghan people as well as to international undertakings.

The EU stands ready to further support the transition process, in particular in the areas of governance, development and police reform.

The EU has a long-term commitment to assist Afghanistan with strengthening its democratic institutions, economic and social development, and to promoting effective regional cooperation. In this context, the EU is ready to further develop its own political and economic ties with Afghanistan.

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EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 30 January 2011
A 036/11

Statement by the EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the attacks in Afghanistan

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

"I strongly condemn the horrible bomb attack in 'Finest' the supermarket in the district of Wazir Akbar Khan in Kabul on Friday that claimed the lives of number of people including Hamida Barmaki, a member of the Independent Human Rights Commission of Afghanistan who had special responsibility for children's rights, and her entire family. Commissioner Hamida Barmaki was a role model for Afghan women and I pay tribute to her courageous fight for human rights, especially those of women and children.

The following day saw the assassination of Abdul Latif Ashna, Deputy Governor of Kandahar province, again by a suicide bomber. I send my deepest sympathies to the bereaved families.

The murders of people who had made it their life's work to fight for a better future of Afghanistan is particularly tragic and senseless.

Such horrendous attacks only strengthen the resolve of the EU to continue to support the Afghan people to face the numerous challenges ahead and to fight for fundamental rights, in particular those of the most vulnerable groups like women and children."

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