



EUROPEAN UNION

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## **Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the execution of Ajmal Kasab in India**

Catherine Ashton, 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 very concerned by the execution which took place early this morning in Pune, Maharashtra. Irrespective of the merits of the case, I deeply regret this breach of the de-facto moratorium on the death penalty observed by India since 2004, which also goes against the global abolitionist trend. We recognise that terrible murders were committed at the heart of this case and we are aware of the suffering of the victims and their families. However, I do not believe that capital punishment can ever be justified. This also comes just two days after the adoption, in the UN 3rd Committee, of the Resolution on Moratorium on the use of the death penalty with an unprecedented number of votes in favour.*

*The EU is opposed to the use of death penalty in all cases and under any circumstances. I call on the Indian authorities to reintroduce the moratorium on executions as a first step towards definitive abolition of capital punishment."*

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**P R E S S**

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