



EUROPEAN UNION

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Statement by the High Representative, Catherine Ashton, on the continued violent crack-down of the demonstrations in Syria

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

"I am deeply concerned by the increasing number of persons killed and demonstrators arrested in the Southern city of Deraa.

The use of live ammunition and excessive force against peaceful protestors must cease immediately and is to be sharply condemned.

I reiterate the EU's call on the Syrian authorities to uphold the right to peaceful assembly and to abide by international standards calling for the use of non violent means by law enforcement officials. I call for the immediate release of all persons arrested during the demonstrations.

The leadership in Syria must meet the legitimate grievances and aspirations of the people calling for political and socio-economic reforms, the end of the state of emergency and the release of all political prisoners and human rights defenders."

P R E S S

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