

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on Afghanistan/Iran

The EU has learned with dismay of the killing of Iranian diplomats during recent fighting at Mazar-i-Sharif in Northern Afghanistan, and expresses its condolences to the bereaved families and to the Government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The EU condemns these inhuman acts and the violation of the Vienna Diplomatic and Consular Conventions. The EU calls for an urgent investigation into these crimes and a consequent indictment of those responsible. The EU calls on the Taliban for full cooperation to ensure the release and safe return of remaining diplomats and other Iranian nationals still missing in Afghanistan. The EU notes the statement of the Taliban that the bodies will be returned to Iran and the perpetrators brought to justice.