

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 the massacre in Gihungwe, Burundi**

The European Union renews its condemnation of the acts of violence being perpetrated on the Burundian civilian population, and in particular the massacre in Gihungwe.

It points out in this connection that a declaration was adopted by the armed parties at the first session of peace talks in Arusha in which they undertook to settle the crisis by peaceful means and to bring to an end all forms of violence. The European Union hereby repeats its appeal to all the armed groups and government forces to honour this commitment and refrain from all hostilities.

The Central and East European countries associated with the European Union, the associated country of Cyprus and the EFTA countries members of the European Economic Area endorse this declaration.