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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on the deaths of a Sudanese Red Crescent Worker
and three Sudanese Government Officials**

The European Union strongly condemns the deaths of a Sudanese Red Crescent worker and three Sudanese Government officials who accompanied an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) team in Southern Sudan while being in custody of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army. (SPLM/A).

The European Union calls on the SPLM/A to permit a thorough investigation of this incident and expects the SPLM/A to cooperate with the ICRC in returning the bodies to their families.

At the same time the European Union remains strongly concerned about the humanitarian situation in Southern Sudan and urges the parties to the conflict not to allow this incident to interfere with the forthcoming IGAD-Peace Negotiations in Nairobi, the extension of humanitarian ceasefire and the efforts by the International Community to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Sudan.

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