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Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the events in Iran

The European Union has followed with concern the reaction of police and security forces to the course of events related to student demonstrations which started on 8 July in Tehran and which have spread to other cities. The European Union appeals to all groups to refrain from all kinds of violence.

The European Union has noted the efforts of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to pursue a course of institutionalising the democratic structures and respect for civil society as well as promoting respect for the rights and freedoms of the individual. The European Union welcomes the condemnation by the Iranian government of violence that has been used against demonstrators.

The European Union appeals to all political and social forces in the Islamic Republic of Iran to promote a policy of tolerance and respect for universal human rights in all aspects, including protecting the rights of freedom in expression, association and assembly.

The European Union believes that the present situation can find an appropriate solution only through dialogue and on the basis of universally recognised human rights and fundamental freedoms. Primarily it is for the Iranian people to resolve the situation within Iran.