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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on the massacre of civilians at Rukaramu (Burundi)**

The EU condemns in the strongest possible terms the attack on the village of Rukaramu, near Bujumbura. It deplores this barbaric attack which resulted in very heavy civilian casualties, including a large number of deaths.

The EU fully supports the efforts of the UN Human Rights Field Operation in Burundi to investigate the massacre and looks forward to an early, independent assessment by HRFOB.

The EU urges all parties fully to respect human rights, to engage in dialogue with a view to promoting reconciliation and bringing to an end the political problems of Burundi, so that all the people of Burundi may build a peaceful, prosperous and secure future.

