

PRESS RELEASE

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**DECLARATION BY THE PRESIDENCY
ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
ON THE MURDER OF THREE ITALIAN CITIZENS IN BURUNDI**

The European Union has learnt that three Italian nationals, two Jesuit priests and a lay worker, were murdered on 30 September 1995 in the parish of Buyengero, Bururi province.

The European Union strongly condemns this murder of innocent people, whose only desire was to contribute to the development of the country and the improvement of the welfare of its people. The European Union also expresses its keen concern at the assaults being carried out on foreign nationals in Burundi.

The European Union requests the government of Burundi to mount an investigation without delay to identify the murderers and bring them to trial, and calls on the Burundi authorities to do everything in their power to guarantee the safety of foreigners living in Burundi.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the Union align themselves with this declaration.