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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
concerning the Mudende camp massacre**

The EU condemns in the strongest terms the attack on the camp of Congolese Tutsi refugees at Mudende in north-western Rwanda. It is deeply shocked at that attack, as barbaric as it was thorough, leaving hundreds dead or injured. It would like a report on the facts drawn up by the human rights observers (HRFOR).

The EU sees the attack against a background of general escalation of violence and insecurity in Rwanda. It deplores the fact that human rights violations have there become an almost everyday occurrence and it is deeply saddened to see that the return of refugees in these conditions has merely maintained a deeply disturbing situation throughout the region.

The EU calls upon the Rwandan authorities to envisage security arrangements for the camps to prevent a recurrence of similar incidents to that in Mudende. Nevertheless, it also appeals to the Rwandan authorities to exercise the greatest restraint in particularly difficult circumstances in order to avoid any further deterioration in the situation.

More generally, the EU appeals urgently to all parties involved to help create a climate propitious to fostering reconciliation amongst all the peoples in the region so that, together, they can build a peaceful future in a context of security, stability and development which they so much need.

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.