

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on Burundi**

The European Union is deeply concerned at the recent attacks and acts of violence committed against civilians in Burundi, particularly at their apparent ethnic focus. In this context, it equally condemns the massacre committed by armed rebels in Kanyosha as that committed by Government forces in Mutambu.

The EU welcomes the decision of the Government of Burundi to set up a Commission of Inquiry to investigate into the massacre in Mutambu and calls on all parties to cooperate with this Commission. The EU hopes that the Commission will work in a quick and thorough way and that those found responsible will be brought to justice. It calls on the Government of Burundi to reinforce the discipline of the armed forces in order to avoid such incidents in the future.

The EU further appeals to the Government of Burundi to fully cooperate with the Human Rights Observers of the United Nations in Burundi (OHCHR) in order to allow an independent investigation of all incidents.

The EU urges all parties to the conflict in Burundi to immediately stop all acts of violence and attacks directed at civilians, to respect international humanitarian law and to take appropriate action to ensure ethnic harmony. It calls on all parties to join those who are engaged in the negotiations and the search for a peaceful solution to the conflict in Burundi in the framework of the Arusha process. The Union reiterates its readiness to further support this process.

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.