

PRESS RELEASE

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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on the disappearances and killings of dissidents in Iran**

The European Union acknowledges the continuing efforts of the Iranian Government to guarantee the freedom of speech in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In this context, the Union is concerned about recent signs of intimidation of writers and intellectuals in Iran. The European Union is particularly concerned about the disappearance and death over the last weeks of three Iranian writers, Mohammad Moukthari, Majid Sharif and Mohammed-Jafar Pouyandeh, and the disappearance of Pirouz Davan, as well as about the murder of Darioush Forouhar and his wife Parvaneh Eskandari.

The Union presents its sincere condolences to the families of the victims.

The Union recognises the commitment of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to investigate these incidents. The Union underlines the importance it attaches to the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of speech, and strongly supports the efforts of the Iranian authorities to guarantee the freedom of speech and the safety of Iranian writers and intellectuals.