

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 the recent killings of civilians in Burundi**

The European Union deplores the recent clashes between the army and the rebels, which have resulted in very many civilian victims. The Union is very concerned at the reprisals taken against civilians following these clashes. In particular, it calls on the Government of Burundi to work in close collaboration with observers from the United Nations Human Rights Office, and to set up an internal inquiry to establish any responsibility of the members of the army involved and to bring the latter to justice. The Union draws the attention of the Government of Burundi to the fragility of the final phases of the Arusha peace process and to the dangers that such incidents represent for this process.

The Countries of Central and Eastern Europe associated with the European Union, Cyprus and Malta, which are also associated countries, and the EFTA countries which are members of the European Economic Area support this declaration.
