

Statement of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the extension of restrictive measures against Syrian individuals responsible for and associated with repression Council of the European Union

1 August 2011

(...) Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy/Commission Vice President

President issued the following statement today:

“On 18 July, EU Foreign Ministers declared that until the unacceptable violence against civilians stops and decisive progress is achieved towards fulfilling the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people for a democratic transition, the EU will pursue its current policy, including sanctions against those responsible for or associated with the violent repression. (...)”

Today, the EU has decided to impose further restrictive measures, in the form of an assets freeze and travel ban on five Syrian individuals involved in or associated with the violent repression.

I wish to remind the Syrian authorities of their

responsibility to protect

the population. The brutal violence creates a serious risk of escalating tension and factional divisions and is not consistent with broad reforms.

I urge the Syrian Government to address the EU's repeated calls for freedom of expression and freedom of assembly, to release all political prisoners without further delay and institute a genuine and inclusive national dialogue.

The EU continues to monitor the situation in Syria closely. It will extend restrictive measures, should the Syrian leadership persist in its current path. (...)

See full statement
[here](#)