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S T A T E M E N T

by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on child marriage in Yemen

The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, issued the following statement today:

"I am appalled by reports of the death of an 8 year old Yemeni girl from serious injuries, including internal bleeding, sustained on her wedding night. I urge the Yemeni authorities to investigate this case without delay and to prosecute all those responsible for this crime. I call on the Yemeni government to abide by its obligations under international law, including the UN Conventions protecting the rights of the child, of which Yemen is a member, and to immediately reinstate legislation setting a minimum age for marriage, in line with international norms, to prohibit such abuse of children.

The onus is on the Yemeni authorities to put in place a legislative framework to counter practices which are patent violations of basic human rights and could result in horrific crimes. Such a course of action is required to ensure consistency with the efforts being made by Yemen, including through its National Dialogue Conference, to make progress on the path of reforms, modernization and protection of human rights."

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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