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Statement by the EU High Representative on recent attacks in Syria

The EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission, Catherine Ashton, issued the following statement today:

"I join the UN Security Council in condemning the recent attacks in Syria in the southern town of Deraa and in Damascus. The twin bomb attacks in Damascus occurred just before 8 a.m. at rush hour time with commuters travelling to work and children to school. The timing indicates that the attacks were intended to inflict a maximum number of casualties and damage. The scenes of devastation after the explosion show that no thought was given to sparing innocent lives. I express my sincere condolences to the victims and the families of the victims of these acts of terrorism that took so many lives and injured more than a hundred people.

Wednesday's roadside bomb attack as a convoy of the UN Supervision Mission in Syria, UNSMIS, was entering Deraa is another demonstration of the difficult conditions under which the mission operates. As the UN Secretary General stated to the Security Council earlier this week, the unending wave of violence makes Special Envoy Kofi Annan's mission to strive for peace and calm all the more difficult. His six point plan is the only way forward to find a peaceful solution to the crisis in Syria.

I call on the parties to fully cooperate with his mission and do their outmost to achieve a cessation of violence without further delay.
I want to reiterate my great concerns about the humanitarian plight of the Syrian population and call again on the authorities to grant immediate, unimpeded and full access of humanitarian organisations to all areas of Syria."

P R E S S

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