



EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 6 July 2011
A 265/11

Statement by the High Representative Catherine Ashton on recent arrests of women journalists, artists and women's rights defenders in Iran

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

"I am profoundly worried over the many arrests of women journalists, artists and women's rights defenders in recent weeks in Iran. These include photographer Maryam Madj, film-maker Mahnaz Mohammadi, journalist Zahra Yazdani, women's rights advocate Maryam Bahrman and Mansoureh Behkish .

I call on Iran to respect the right to freedom of expression, in accordance with its international human rights obligations, and to release these women and other detained women's rights defenders immediately."

P R E S S

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