STATEMENT

by the Spokesperson on the death penalty in Afghanistan

"We deplore the decision of the Afghan authorities to carry out death sentences on six convicted criminals yesterday. While the European Union condemns the heinous crimes perpetrated in this case, we reiterate our strong and absolute opposition to capital punishment in all cases and under all circumstances. The action is a particular setback in light of the World Day against the Death Penalty this week.

The European Union considers the death penalty to be a cruel and inhuman punishment, which fails to provide deterrence to criminal behaviour and represents an unacceptable denial of human dignity and integrity. Any miscarriage of justice – which is inevitable in any legal system – is irreversible. The European Union restates its commitment to the worldwide abolition of the death penalty and calls upon the Afghan authorities to introduce a moratorium as a first step towards abolition of death penalty."

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