



Catherine Ashton
High Representative of the Union
for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Vice President of the European Commission

Brussels, 6 April 2011
Our Ref: B1062

Report – Moment of Truth for Yemen

Dear Baroness Ashton,

Amnesty International would like to draw your attention to the attached report, *Moment of Truth for Yemen*, which was issued on 5 April 2011. The report focuses on the rapid deterioration of human rights situation in Yemen over the first few months of this year and documents excessive use of force by the security forces which has resulted in scores of deaths, and hundreds of injuries following mass protests across the country calling for President Saleh to stand down.

We have taken note of your statement on Yemen of 5 April and commend your strong stance on violence against protesters and the call for political transition there. We regret, however, that the EU has still not implemented several crucial measures to ensure a halt to human rights violations in Yemen.

We call on the EU to:

- Ensure all its statements on Yemen and elsewhere in the Middle East and North Africa, include clear calls for governmental accountability for human rights violations and bringing perpetrators to justice
- Acknowledge in its statements that recent crack-downs against protesters represent a wider systemic problem in Yemen, and condemn the security forces' impunity for using excessive force
- Take a clear lead by calling for a special section of the Human Rights Council to address the situation in Yemen and for the Yemeni authorities to allow access for human rights monitoring
- Suspend the trade and delivery to Yemen of all arms and associated equipment by the EU and member states
- Revisit its policy on the Arabian peninsula – while the EU has begun to reassess the European Neighbourhood Policy it has so far failed to address its policy towards this region, which should be addressed immediately.

We should naturally be happy to provide any further information you might require.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Nicolas J. Beger
Director
Amnesty International European Institutions Office