



Declaration by the European Union and Canada on Guatemala

We would express our deep concern at the worsening situation of violence and impunity in Guatemala and our disquiet at the present state of growing political and social unrest in the country.

We call on the various sections of Guatemalan society to show common sense, caution and maturity in dealing with the crisis.

We urge that an impartial and independent investigation be carried out into the recent acts of violence. We support the Guatemalan government's request to the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) to assist in the investigation and we reiterate our full backing for the CICIG.

An independent judicial system is of crucial importance in combating the high levels of impunity in the country. We ask all state institutions to take the decisions necessary to ensure the independence and effectiveness of Guatemala's judicial system.

We reiterate our support for all those endeavouring to maintain and strengthen democratic institutions, which are vital for peace and development in the country, and to build a state governed by the rule of law for all Guatemalans.

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