

## **EU 'appalled and saddened' by violence in Indonesia**

**STOCKHOLM, March 2 (AFP)** - The European Union said it was "appalled and saddened by the violence in the Indonesian province of Central Kalimantan," in a statement issued by the Swedish presidency of the EU Friday.

The violence on the Indonesian island of Borneo "has led to a large loss of life and property and to a large flow of displaced persons," the statement noted.

Some 22,000 Madurese immigrants have fled Central Kalimantan this past week aboard refugee ships since indigenous Dayaks ran amok, killing and beheading the settlers and torching their houses to force them out of the province.

"The Union encourages the Government of Indonesia to continue in its efforts to restore security and prevent further violence," the statement from Stockholm said.

pcw/es/loc AFP

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**Source:** European Union

**Date:** 2 Mar 2001

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### **Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on Kalimantan, Indonesia**

Brussels, 2 March 2001, 6686/01 (Presse 82), P 43/01

The European Union is appalled and saddened by the violence in the Indonesian province of Central Kalimantan, which has led to a large loss of life and property and to a tragic flow of displaced persons. The Union encourages the Government of Indonesia to continue in its efforts to restore security and prevent further violence.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the EFTA countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this declaration.

**Source:** Deutsche Presse Agentur

**Date:** 2 Mar 2001

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### **UN Human Rights Commissioner calls for Asian input on Indonesia**

**Bangkok (dpa)** - United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson on Friday urged Asian government to express their concerns to the Indonesian government over recent massacres in Kalimantan, Borneo, where at least 469 have died in two weeks of clashes.

"I hope the governments of the region, of ASEAN, will speak out more of their concerns, to encourage the government of Indonesia to do more to protect its citizens," Robinson told a press conference.

Robinson was in Bangkok this week to attend the ninth workshop on regional cooperation for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asia-Pacific region which wound up on Friday.

She noted that Asia remains the only region in the world which has yet to establish its own charter on human rights protection, although she added the workshop had come to a "very forward looking conclusion."

Asian governments are, in general, highly reluctant to interfere with one another's internal affairs, such as human rights abuses.

"Non-interference in internal affairs," for instance, has long been one of the key foreign policy tenets of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which includes Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia,

Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar (Burma), The Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Myanmar, and increasingly Indonesia, are among the countries most frequently criticized for serious human rights abuses.

Robinson said she was encouraged by signs of "some small openings on human rights in Myanmar," in an apparent reference to reports that a political dialogue has commenced between the ruling junta and opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

But she added that it would be a positive sign if Myanmar would allow a representative of the U.N. High Commissioner on Human Rights to visit the country.

While in Bangkok, Robinson also signed an agreement with the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for the Asia Pacific (ESCAP) to set up an office in Bangkok for an a regional advisor on human rights issues, to provide "technical support."