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CANADA DEPLORES SITUATION IN GUATEMALA

External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall today deplored the suspension of the Guatemalan Constitution and the country's highest legislative and legal bodies by President Jorge Serrano.

"Canada cannot, and will not, condone, in any circumstance, such abuses of the democratic process. We are committed to democracy and human rights in this hemisphere, and will take every possible action, together with the Organization of American States (OAS), to support these essential values," said Mrs. McDougall.

Canada strongly supports the resolution, passed during an emergency meeting of the Permanent Council of the OAS, condemning the events that have taken place in Guatemala and urging the authorities immediately to reinstate democratic institutions and full respect for human rights under the rule of law.

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