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CANADA CALLS ON NIGERIA TO RESTORE DEMOCRACY

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today condemned the military takeover and dissolution of democratic institutions in Nigeria.

"Canada calls on the Nigerian regime to restore elected institutions and to complete the transition to democracy promptly. The dismissal of parliamentary, state and local elected officials and the banning of democratic rights and parties are a major setback, cancelling five years of progress. The military, through further intervention, cannot solve the crisis caused by its annulment of the presidential election," Mr. Ouellet said.

The Minister indicated that measures adopted by Canada last summer, following the annulment of the presidential election, would remain in effect, and that Canada would be following developments in Nigeria closely.

Canadians have been advised to defer all travel to Nigeria. The Canadian High Commission in Lagos is in close contact with the approximately 1,000 Canadians living in Nigeria, and all are reported safe.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874