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## PRESS RELEASE

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### Statement on Upcoming Elections in Kogi and Bayelsa

As Kogi and Bayelsa states prepare to conduct important gubernatorial elections, the United States calls upon all Nigerians to refrain from advocating, fomenting, or condoning violence before, during, or after the elections. The Nigerian Constitution itself states it is the duty of every citizen to “respect the dignity of other citizens and the rights and legitimate interests of citizens to live in unity and harmony.” Political parties, elected leaders, and candidates for office have a special obligation to uphold these democratic precepts. The United States remains committed to working with Nigeria to strengthen its democratic institutions in the years to come.

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Relevant information about U.S. policies and programs in Nigeria can be found on our websites:  
<http://nigeria.usembassy.gov> and [www.usaid.gov/ng](http://www.usaid.gov/ng)

