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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Military Violence in Guinea-Bissau**

Press Statement

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Washington, DC

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We strongly condemn the attempt by certain elements of the military to forcibly seize power and undermine the legitimate civilian leadership of Guinea-Bissau. We regret that they have chosen to disrupt the democratic process, which already was challenged by the opposition's call to boycott the second round of elections.

We urge all parties to put down their weapons, release government leaders immediately, and restore the legitimate civilian leadership.

We are deeply concerned about the safety of all those in Bissau, and call for maximum restraint on all sides. We will continue to work with our partners in the region and beyond as we monitor developments on the ground.

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