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Media Release

For Immediate Release

April 24, 2007

Nigerian elections failed to meet international standards, says Obhrai

(OTTAWA) Deepak Obhrai, M.P. and Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs, today made the following statement in the House of Commons:

“Presidential elections important to all of the African region took place in Nigeria on April 21. Nigerians turned out to vote despite long wait times and the potential for violence and intimidation. It is commendable that despite these deterrents, Nigerians remained determined to exercise their right to vote. I applaud their commitment to the democratic process.

The Government of Canada is deeply concerned, however, about reports from international and domestic observers of serious irregularities. Observer groups have said that the elections have failed to meet international standards. We agree with their assessment.

We urge Nigeria to quickly address all the shortcomings of the April 21 elections through appropriate judicial measures. There must be credible avenues of redress, so that Nigerians’ confidence in their democratic institutions is not further eroded. Canada stands ready to support the many Nigerians who want to make democracy succeed in their country.”

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