



Press Statement

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Washington, DC

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Syria Referendum: A Costly and Empty Campaign

We regret that the [Syrian](#) regime continues refusing its people open, transparent, and fully participatory elections. President Bashar al-Assad has promised election reforms. However, this upcoming presidential referendum harkens back to the tired one-party, one-candidate politics of the past and will only give the appearance of democracy without its substance. We urge the regime to give the Syrian people a legitimate choice, by holding free and fair elections, consistent with international standards.

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