

**Forum: Nigeria's Election in April 2007,
The Future of African Democracy Depends on it**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2007, 6-7:30 PM

Chair:

Dr. Robert Pastor, Vice President of International Affairs, AU

Panelists:

Don Heflin, Deputy Director, Office of West Africa,
Bureau of African Affairs, US Dept of State

Peter Lewis, Associate Professor, John Hopkins University, SAIS
Director, SIS-SAIS Africa Project

Rotimi Suberu, Professor, University of Ibadan and Senior Fellow,
US Institute of Peace

WHERE: American University, Butler Pavilion, Butler Board Room,
4400 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington D.C. 20016

The 2007 Nigerian elections are a critical moment in the country's movement towards democracy. One hopes it will be the first time in Nigeria's history that one democratically elected President will hand over power to another democratically elected President. However, given the poor administrative preparations, the tense political atmosphere, and the efforts by the current President to try to remain in power and prevent a leading candidate from contesting the vote, the process and the outcome are very uncertain. As the most populous African country, these elections will profoundly affect not just Nigeria, but also democratic values and stability in the region.

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