## <u>Press Releases: Run-Up to the 2019</u> Bolivian Presidential Elections

Press Statement Robert Palladino

Deputy Spokesperson

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The United States joins the European Union in stressing that threats against judges from the Supreme Electoral Tribunal are not conducive to creating the conditions required to hold free and fair elections in 2019.

Respect for the independence of the judiciary, political pluralism, and freedom of expression are fundamental rights and essential pillars of democracy and the rule of law.

The United States supports a healthy democracy in Bolivia that respects Bolivia's constitution and the will of the Bolivian people.

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