



EXECUTIVE BOARD STATEMENT ON THE KIDNAPPED SCHOOL GIRLS IN NORTHERN NIGERIA

Meeting in Brussels October 21-23 2014, the 43rd Executive Board of Education International condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the kidnapping of more than 200 school girls by the terrorist group *Boko Haram*, in Chibok, northern Nigeria.

Boko Haram (literally translated from Hausa as 'Western Education is forbidden') is a terrorist group fighting to establish an Islamist state in Northern Nigeria since 2009; their tactics include targeting and destroying schools, as well as kidnapping and killing students and teachers.

During the last few years, as many as 171 teachers have been killed in the north-eastern States of Nigeria, and in July 2013, Boko Haram murdered 46 children as they slept in their boarding school dormitories.

57 of the Chibok girls managed to escape their captors, but 219 others have remained in captivity for more than six months since they were taken at gunpoint from their school last April.

The EI Executive Board calls –

On the Nigerian federal authorities to increase efforts to secure the safe release of the school girls;
On all member organisations to support the 'Safe School Initiative' that EI is assisting the Nigerian government to put in place;

To all member organisations and concerned persons to continue supporting the global #BringBackOurGirls campaign and add their voices to the millions calling for the safe release of the Chibok school girls;

EI will continue to promote **quality education for all in conditions that are safe and secure** for students and teachers alike.