

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Statement of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the abduction of Nigerian school girls

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women firmly condemns the acts of violence against more than 200 girls who were abducted from their secondary school on 14 April 2014 during a violent raid by Boko Haram in the village of Chibok, Borno State, Nigeria. The Committee is deeply concerned about the fate of these girls.

The Committee considers that this large-scale abduction from an educational institution for enslavement constitutes a direct violation of articles 5, 6 and 10 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and may qualify as a crime against humanity.

The Committee urges Nigeria to employ all necessary means to obtain the release of the girls and to bring to justice the perpetrators of this heinous crime. The Committee recalls its General Recommendation No. 30 (2013) on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations, asking States parties to uphold women's rights before, during and after conflict and to exercise due diligence in ensuring that non-State actors are held accountable for crimes against women. In particular, States parties are asked to take measures to prevent the occurrence of attacks and threats against school girls and their teachers; and ensure that perpetrators of such acts of violence are promptly investigated, prosecuted and punished.

The Committee will closely follow the situation of the abducted girls and the measures taken by the Nigerian authorities to ensure their release, punish the perpetrators and provide effective remedies to the victims, as well as to prevent similar violations in the future and ensure the participation of women in the resolution of the current crisis.
