May 6, 2014

His Excellency (Prof.) Adebowale Ibadapo Adefuye
Ambassador to the United States
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
3519 International Court, NW
Washington, DC 20008

Your Excellency:

On behalf of the 3 million members of the National Education Association in the United States, I write to you with grave concern regarding the well-being of the 276 female students who were kidnapped and are still held by Boko Haram militants. At this point the intention of their captors is crystal clear, as stated by Abubakar Shekau regarding his new ‘slaves,’ “I will sell them because I have the market to sell them.” Using the powers of your government, together with support of international allies, the well-being of the missing female students must be secured.

This situation is a flashpoint internationally as an obstacle to delivering quality education for all children. The National Education Association, with the Nigerian Union of Teachers, belongs to the global union federation Education International that represents over 30 million educators in 172 nations. Together, we unite for quality education; whether in rural villages or urban centers, the human right to education is a cornerstone of democracy and economic empowerment.

We, in the United States, with our global community partners are looking to the government of Nigeria to ensure that all schools in the nation are safe and immediate progress is made to educate all children in your nation. Human life is precious and the education of girls is essential to future stability.

I call on you to use your leverage to ensure that the Nigerian government, with its international allies and NGOs, does everything possible to recalibrate the future of Nigeria through prioritizing safe schools for all children, especially for girls. We urgently await positive news on the students who attend the Government Girls Secondary School in Chibok in Borno State, as well as broader progress.

Sincerely,

Dennis Van Roekel
President