

Text N°4: Bring Back our Girls

Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan believes the more than 270 schoolgirls kidnapped on April 14 by islamist militants are still in the country. The mass abduction of several hundred Christian school girls in northern Nigeria sparked outrage. But it was the rambling hour-long Haoussa-language video by the terrorist group's leader that triggered a global uproar. In it,  
5 Boko Haram chief Abubakar Shekau threatened to sell the teenage girls into the marketplace as slaves or force them to convert to Islam and marry by age 12.

Christians in Northern Nigeria are victims of the militant islamist group Boko Haram which aims to establish an Islamist State. In a terrorist campaign that has been fasting for months many churches have been attacked and Christians killed. This alarming phenomenon has drawn  
10 condemnations at the United Nations, demanding for actions in the U.S. Congress, protest in the capitals around the globe and a Twitter campaign from Nigeria, Nigerian protest in Port Harcourt over the government's failure to rescue more than 270 schoolgirls kidnapped.

The unusual case has cast a spotlight on the Obama's administration's attempt to help African governments struggling against homegrown terrorist groups, including the Shebab in Somalia  
15 and Kenya, A Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb in Mali and Algeria, and the Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda and Sudan. The Pentagon has stepped up assistance across the region, especially for counter-terrorism missions.

Their plight now is a global "Cause Célèbre" driven in by social media. First Lady Michelle Obama tweeted a picture of herself holding a sign "Bring Back Our Girl" saying her prayers  
20 were with the missing Nigeria girls and their families.

**Christi Parson & Robyn Dixon, *L.A. Times*, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014.**