

A CRISIS IN NIGERIA

Our hearts and prayers go out to all the families of the nearly 300 schoolgirls who were abducted at gunpoint from their school in Nigeria on April 15, 2014, by a militant group of religious extremists who are opposed to education, and intent on bringing terror to their country. The reports out of Nigeria state that these girls, ages 16 - 18, have been raped, forced or sold into marriages and many taken to other countries. At the time of this writing, some of the girls escaped, but about 250 are still missing. The agony of these young girls and the anguish and despair of their families is unfathomable.

Those allegedly responsible for these acts of terror call themselves Boko Haram which means 'Western education is sinful or forbidden.' They are fearful of progress and seek to retain, promote and perpetuate outdated traditions and mores designed for primitive minds and archaic lifestyles that have long outlived their usefulness. While they targeted girls in this attack, they are also believed to have murdered about 60 schoolboys and attacked houses of worship and random civilians in recent months.

There are, of course, many other atrocities taking place around the globe and our attention to this issue is not meant as a slight to those suffering in places such as Syria, Ukraine, Malaysia, and other regions. But the Nigerian incident touches our children, the weaker ones in our global society who cannot fend for themselves and who desperately need the help and support of the global community the most. They are our future. If our children are lost, stifled, oppressed, or murdered, the future of the entire human race is threatened.

Thus, this is not a local civil or criminal matter. This is an affront to all humanity. All lovers of people in general around the globe should be outraged at such primitive, barbaric, and demonic behavior. The perpetrators of such violence must not think that the world does not care or see them. We must take control of our world and not passively give it over to those who are determined to ruin it. Thankfully, in our modern era, technology allows us to work together unitedly to bring about change. We can do it if we have the right motive and attitude, and if we could only realize that there are more of us than there are of them. They are louder, but we are stronger.

So to the extent possible, we encourage more people to use their voices and their social media outlets to bring attention to these atrocities, and support those who are fighting for personal and religious freedom the world over. Events such as these do not belong in a modern society. We firmly believe we are at the threshold of coming out of darkness into an enlightened new era. We are now quivering on the very brink of one of the most amazing and enthralling epochs of social readjustment, moral quickening, and spiritual enlightenment. But it is always darkest before the dawn.

Though slow in coming, the international community is beginning to respond with assistance to find the attackers and bring the girls home to their families. We pray for their speedy success. We can overcome these atrocities if enough good people stand up and say “Enough!” We stand with our Nigerian brothers and sisters who seek knowledge, freedom and liberty, and we say “Enough!”

And we remind our global family that not one person whose life is cut short by ignorance and terrorism is truly lost. Our loving Heavenly Father holds out the sure promise of a resurrection to all who want it and to all whose opportunity to reach out for it has been prematurely taken. Their earthly life course is complete, but their journey into the ‘real life’ will begin in what will seem to them as a blink of the eye. No, the ignorance of man can NEVER defeat the promises of God.

Let us grasp the importance of this crisis and not allow ourselves to passively look on expecting someone else to resolve our problems. It is our planet and our responsibility. The astonishing nature of a united front that we can have for each other is what the world longs for so that, without prompting, men and women of all walks of life can abide as one gloriously God knowing people compelled to do what is right according to God's righteous will. It is surely His will for us to show true brotherly love toward one another, even those we have never met, especially our children.

Enough time has passed for backwardness and barbarous acts on one another. We can end this foolishness with this generation if we truly want it to. We truly want to.

With love and deep concern,
Your Brothers in Faith,
www.AnointedJW.org
www.TheChristExperiment.org

For more information on the crises, see these, and other, links:

<http://www.cnn.com/2014/05/01/world/africa/nigeria-abducted-girls/>

<http://www.cnn.com/2014/05/03/world/africa/nigeria-abducted-girls/>

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/04/opinion/sunday/kristof-bring-back-our-girls.html?_r=0

http://www.theroot.com/articles/culture/2014/05/bring_back_our_daughters_here_s_what_we_know_about_the_nigerian_schoolgirl.html