



11th March, 2024

PRESS RELEASE:

URGENT APPEAL FOR THE RESCUE OF ABDUCTED INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPs) IN BORNO STATE, STUDENTS/TEACHERS IN LEA PRIMARY SCHOOL, KURIGA KADUNA STATE AS WELL AS FIFTEEN (15) PUPILS IN GIDAN BAKUSO, SOKOTO STATE RESPECTIVELY.

Highlights:

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- *CSO, SOAI calls on relevant authorities to intensify efforts to secure and protect the vulnerable Nigerians, Condemns the Act as Human Rights Violation.*
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Speak Out Africa Initiative (SOAI), a not-for-profit Organisation with a core mandate of promoting effective development and human rights has appealed to the Nigerian government, security agencies, and the international community to take immediate and decisive action for the rescue of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) abducted in Borno State on 29th February, 2024; the students and teachers at LEA Primary School in Kuriga, Kaduna State on Thursday 7th March as well as the fifteen (15) pupils from the Islamic seminary hostel as they slept on Saturday 9th March, 2024 in Sokoto State respectively.

The recent incidents of abduction have once again highlighted the grave humanitarian crisis facing our nation, particularly in regions affected by insurgency and conflict. The vulnerable IDPs in Borno State, already displaced by the dire circumstances, are now facing the unimaginable horror of abduction. This is a grave violation of their basic human rights, **and we implore all relevant authorities to prioritize their rescue and safety.**

Equally distressing is the situation at LEA Primary School in Kuriga, Kaduna State, where innocent students and dedicated teachers have been taken captive, over 280 of them, and the 15 pupils kidnapped from their hostel on 9th March, 2024 Saturday morning. This is disheartening since Education is a fundamental right, and the heinous action not only undermines the future of these young minds but also strikes at the heart of our collective progress as a society.



SOAI therefore call on the government and security agencies to:

1. **Intensify efforts** to locate and rescue the abducted IDPs in Borno State, the students and teachers of LEA Primary School in Kuriga, Kaduna State, and the 15 students abducted recently.
2. **Collaborate with local vigilantes and communities** especially around the environs, traditional leaders of these communities, and humanitarian organizations to gather intelligence and support rescue operations.
3. Ensure the **safe return and rehabilitation** of the rescued students, teachers and individuals, providing necessary medical, psychological, and socio-economic support.
4. Enhance **security measures in vulnerable areas** to prevent future incidents and protect the rights of the affected populations.

We also urge the international community to:

- **While condemning these acts** should prioritize supporting Nigeria in its efforts to ensure the safety and security of its citizens.
- **Offer assistance in intelligence gathering**, logistics, and other resources to enhance the effectiveness of rescue operations.
- **Advocate for the protection of vulnerable populations**, including IDPs and students, in conflict-affected regions.

In conclusion, SOAI remains committed to supporting the affected communities and calls for a united front in the face of these challenges. Every effort must be made to bring an end to the suffering of the abducted individuals and to create an environment where the rights and aspirations of all citizens can be realized.

#EndHumanRightViolation
#RescueOurStudents
#ProtectNigeria
#SpeakOutAfricaInitiative

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