

The International Women's Year Liaison Group, Japan

Yoyogi 2-21-22  
Shibuyaku, Tokyo 151-0053 JAPAN

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The International Women's Year Liaison Group, Japan

Convenors

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We Demand that  
the Girls Kidnapped and Missing in Northern Nigeria  
Be Immediately Returned to Safety

We, the International Women's Year Liaison Group, Japan (IWYLG), upon learning about the kidnapping of girls by "Boko Haram," and strongly condemn persons claiming responsibility to the incident, and greatly sympathize with those whose family members are suffering. We strongly condemn the tactics taken by the perpetrators from the standpoint of human rights.

It has been reported that more than two hundred girls were forced to leave their boarding school by gunpoint in Chibok, Borno in the northern part of Nigeria and that whereabouts of most of these girls are still unknown after one month.

We cannot overlook the fact that these girls were kidnapped because they were at a Christian institution or of unverified reports referring to their being converted to Islam, or sold as brides if not trafficked as sex slaves are circulating.

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We condemn those who violate the rights of women and girls as expressed in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and we suspect that this and other atrocities attributed to or claimed by "Boko Haram" should be condemned as gender-based violence in the name of religion.

We sincerely hope that the Japanese Government and those who share our concern to speak up for the return of these girls to safety.

The International Women's Year Liaison Group, Japan (IWYLG) was established in 1975 for the purpose of attaining the goal of the United Nations International Women's Year: "Equality, Development and Peace" through coordinating numerous women's organizations, the number of which is thirty-five as of this May. We have been active in promoting gender equality in Japan and at the United Nations venue.