

May 14, 2014

Hon. John Baird  
Minister of Foreign Affairs Canada  
2249 Carling Avenue  
Suite 418  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K2B 7E9

Dear Hon. John Baird,

It has come to my attention that nearly 300 girls in Nigeria have been abducted by a group called Boko Haram. The fact that they have terrorized Nigeria since 2009 and we have heard nothing about them until a little more than a week ago is astounding. It's very hard to believe that 300 girls were taking exams and a minute later they were on a truck that drove into the forest and have yet to be found.

This may not be a surprise to some considering how corrupt Nigeria is, however I find it impossible to believe this happening in Canada. This problem should not be happening anywhere in the world and even if it does we should all be doing everything we can to stop it.

Imagine your daughter being kidnapped by a group of terrorists threatening to sell her as a slave. To us, this is unimaginable, but to the citizens of Nigeria it is a reality.

In conclusion, we should be encouraging other countries to send their military to Nigeria to help out any way they can. The Canadian army should also be there to fight as a last resort if the Nigerians really need their help. Even after this whole situation ends we should all work together to help make Nigeria less corrupt and safer so that not only will it be a better place, but also so that there will be no problems there in the future.

Sincerely,

Joel Vandermark  
Grade 8 Student  
Spencer Middle School