

## **Press Release**

For Immediate Release

May 2, 2014

## Statement by Parliamentary Secretary Obhrai on the kidnapping of school girls by Nigerian terrorist group

The Honourable Deepak Obhrai, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and for International Human Rights, today issued the following statement:

"More than two weeks ago close to 276 young women were kidnapped from a school in Nigeria. Canada deeply condemns this action.

The reports that the young women kidnapped may have been forced into marriage by Islamic extremists is a great concern to Canada.

Canada has been a strong voice for the protection of human rights and protection of women and girls, specifically on the issues of violence against women as well as child and forced marriage.

This act is a violation of basic human rights and a depraved form of violence that will have profound impact on the girls who were kidnapped as well as their families and their communities.

On December 30, 2013 our government listed those responsible for this action, Boko Haram, as a terrorist organization.

We call on Boko Haram to release these innocent young girls and we continue to pray for their well-being."

## For further information, media representatives may contact:

Orli Joseph on email at Orli Joseph@international.gc.ca or on Telephone 613-947-4566

Ottawa Office:

Room 426N Centre Block House of Commons Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Tel: (613) 947-4566 Fax: (613) 947-4569



**Departmental Office:** 

Foreign Affairs and International Trade 125 Sussex Drive Ottawa, ON K1A 0G2

Tel:(613) 995-1851 Fax: (613) 996-3546