08 January 2016

President Muhammadu Buhari
State House, Abuja
Federal Republic of Nigeria

By email

Dear President Buhari

Chibok girls – ‘intelligence’ assistance

We write further to our open letters to you and to Presidents Obama, Hollande and Prime Minister Cameron, dated 14 December 2015 (http://bit.ly/225kCHf; http://bit.ly/1NS8djE).

We were delighted to read of your pronouncement on 30 December 2015, that your government was ready to negotiate with Boko Haram for the Chibok girls’ release ‘without conditions’.

We noted however that two obstacles look likely to hinder this otherwise encouraging development: namely, (1) identifying ‘credible Boko Haram leadership’ with whom to negotiate, and (2) confirmation that the girls are alive.

Both hurdles clearly require ‘intelligence’. You admit that Nigerian authorities have no firm intelligence on the girls’ whereabouts despite information that must be known to escapees, detained militants, the ‘jungle telegraph’ and from satellite imagery. This seems astonishing. What is clear, however, is that you and your government require intelligence assistance.

We have today written to Presidents Obama and Hollande and Prime Minister Cameron urging them to contact you urgently and to offer whatever resources and intelligence Nigeria needs to facilitate the rescue of these girls and other abductees. That letter is attached.

It has been 634 days since the Chibok abductions. This is indefensible! As advocates for victims of sexual slavery, we thank you for your renewed commitment to the Chibok girls. We stand with Nigeria. We ask that you welcome international assistance in order to end this travesty – for the sake of the girls, their families and for the reputation of yourself and of Nigeria.

Yours sincerely

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