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*New York/The Hague/Accra/Buenos Aires/Islamabad/Kampala/London/  
Montevideo/Paramaribo/Santo Domingo/Stockholm/Wellington, June 11, 2014*

**H.E. President Goodluck Jonathan**  
The President of the Republic of Nigeria  
Abuja, Republic of Nigeria

Dear Mr. President Goodluck Jonathan,

We are writing to you today in our capacity as the Members of the Executive Committee of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), a network of over 1100 democratically-elected individual legislators from 140 countries worldwide, to express our heartfelt sympathies with the Nigerian people, for the terrible kidnapping and enslavement of over 200 Nigerian girls from a school in Chibok in April this year by Boko Haram.

In regard to these heinous crimes against the girl child, as the most vulnerable part of society, the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) had already stated in its 2013 report that there is a reasonable basis to believe that crimes against humanity have been committed in Nigeria by Boko Haram. This has been reaffirmed in the Statement of the ICC Prosecutor on the abduction of schoolgirls in Nigeria of 8<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

Although Nigeria is one of the founding members of the International Criminal Court (ICC), under the current existing legislation, the Republic of Nigeria cannot domestically prosecute the leaders of Boko Haram for crimes against humanity, which they are allegedly committing, since the Rome Statute has not been implemented into Nigeria's domestic legal order yet.

We are informed by our members in the Nigerian Senate and House of Representatives that under your leadership there is now a draft-law entitled "A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Enforcement and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity, War Crimes, Genocide and Related Offences, and to give Effect to Certain Provisions of the Rome Statute of the ICC in Nigeria, 2013, SB.183", which has been in II Reading in Senate since May 2013.

We therefore respectfully encourage you to use all your best efforts and leadership to give utmost priority to the parliamentary adoption and promulgation into Law of the Bill SB183 and to take all necessary action to make sure that the legal, judicial and prosecutorial system of the Federal Republic of Nigeria will be equipped, willing and able to indict the leaders of Boko Haram and other persons allegedly responsible of these and other atrocities, falling under the umbrella of crimes against humanity.

Should this law not be enacted, Nigeria will not be able to call a crime against humanity by its own name and apply the principles of International Criminal Law, which may trigger the decision by the ICC in The Hague to initiate relevant cases because Nigeria would be deemed as unable to effectively prosecute these acts of abduction and enslavement within the framework of a widespread or systematic attack directed against the civilian population.



We strongly urge you to prevent this scenario and act in a determined manner to put an end to impunity and to pass the legislation to respond to the quest for justice of the victims.

We also associate ourselves with the global campaign promoting the prompt and immediate liberation of the girls and, in this respect, we welcome the international cooperation that neighboring countries and foreign powers have offered to the Federal Government of Nigeria to halt the horrendous trafficking in human beings that the leader of Boko Haram has openly declared to perpetrate in his self-incriminating statement caught on camera by the Agence France Press and broadcasted by all the major media of the world on 5 May 2014, which included the following words:

*"I abducted your girls. I will sell them in the market, by Allah.  
There is a market for selling humans. Allah says I should sell. He commands me to sell. I will sell women. I sell women."*

(cf. Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau, video of Agence France-Presse, CNN translation from the Hausa language, available at [www.cnn.com/2014/05/05/world/africa/nigeria-abducted-girls/](http://www.cnn.com/2014/05/05/world/africa/nigeria-abducted-girls/)).

The worldwide membership of Parliamentarians for Global Action is entirely devoted to the fulfillment of the imperative norm imposing the unconditional obligation for all States, International Organizations and Non-State Actors to fully protect the civilian populations and their fundamental human rights, regardless of their religious belief, cultural orientation or any other ground that may be lawlessly invoked to justify discrimination.

We therefore urge you to take all necessary measures to put an end to the impunity of the perpetrators of all serious crimes committed against the civilian populations of Nigeria and, while doing so, employ means and methods that are in full conformity with international standards of justice, the Rule of Law and human rights.

Thank you, Mr. President, for taking the time to read this letter and please accept the assurances of our highest esteem and consideration.


Yours sincerely,



Mr. Ross Robertson, MP (New Zealand, *Assistant Speaker*), *President, Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA)*



Ms. Minou Tavarez Mirabal, MP (Dominican Republic, *Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee*), *Chair, PGA Int. Council*



Ms. Margareta Cederfelt, MP (Sweden), *Treasurer, PGA*

**HEADQUARTERS:** 132 Nassau Street, Suite 1419, New York, NY 10038, USA | T +1.212.687.7755 | F +1.212.687.8409

**STICHTING PGA:** 70 Laan van Meedervoort, The Hague, 2517AN, The Netherlands | T +31.70.360.4433 | F +31.70.364.22.55

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Ms. Irene Addo, MP (Ghana), *Member, PGA Executive Committee*



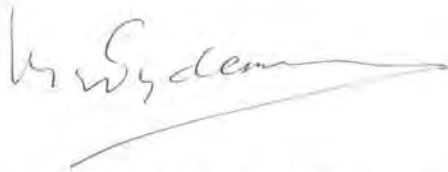
Ms. Margarita Stolbizer, MP (Argentina), *Member, PGA Executive Committee*



Mr. Felipe Michelini, MP (Uruguay), *Convenor, PGA International Law & Human Rights Programme*



Mr. Mark Pritchard, MP (UK, House of Commons), *Co-Convenor, PGA International Law & Human Rights Programme*



Ms. Ruth Wijdenbosch, MP (Suriname), *Deputy Speaker Deputy-Convenor, PGA International Law & Human Rights Programme*



Mr. Stephen Tashobya, MP (Uganda), *Deputy-Convenor, PGA International Law & Human Rights Programme*

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