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Washington Protesters Demand Release of Kidnapped Girls

By Stephanie Uzukwu

A group of protesters gathered at Lincoln Memorial last spring to demand the immediate release of 200 girls kidnapped from their school in Nigeria.

The crowd of mostly college students and people from across the African Diaspora, chanted vigorously, sang, prayed and demanded a report from Nigerian government officials about the girls' status. Those who gathered also included Americans, Nigerians, mothers, fathers, and little sisters who were all dressed in red shirts.

The schoolgirls were abducted by gunmen from the Chibok Government Girls Secondary School in Nigeria's Borno state. The abduction of the girls triggered global outrage and protests in a number of cities and countries, including Washington, New York City, Atlanta, London and Nigeria.

Mothers across the globe have expressed their sympathy for the kidnapped victims and their grieving families, including first lady Michelle Obama.

During the rally one little girl began crying a few minutes into her speech because her sister was among the girls who were kidnapped.

Jessica Chibueze, a first-generation Nigerian who has been concerned with children's issues for the past three years, stated that the government was not providing enough information on the girls' whereabouts. Because of this they are frustrated. "Frustration leads to aggravation," she said.

Emelia Jones, who graduated from University of Jos, Nigeria was among the speakers who addressed the throng. "If Americans knew what was happening, they would put pressure on our Congress" she said.



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