



9 May 2014 - On 14 April, many girls - more than 200 according to different sources - were abducted at gunpoint from their secondary school during a violent raid by Boko Haram in the village of Chibok, Borno State, in the northeast of Nigeria. On 6 May, further abductions were reported in other villages, also perpetrated by Boko Haram.

United Nations and African human rights experts on Thursday called on the Boko Haram armed group to immediately release the abducted girls and urged the Nigerian Government to take all necessary measures to ensure their safe return and to hold the perpetrators accountable. "Ensuring the return of the girls and holding perpetrators accountable will contribute to ending impunity. It will also send a strong message that Nigeria places paramount importance on the protection of girls," they said.

The UN Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Najat Maalla M'jid, condemned the outrageous public admission made in a video by the Boko Haram leader, assuming responsibility for the abduction of the Chibok schoolgirls and claiming that he will sell them in the market and marry them off. "The sale of children, including for the purposes of sexual exploitation, forced marriage and sexual slavery constitutes an intolerable crime, and is prohibited by international law," she said.

