



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

1 July 2014

Dear Senator Warner,

I would like to thank you for your letter dated 6 June 2014 expressing concern over the abduction of more than 200 school girls from Chibok, Nigeria, on 14 April 2014, and attaching a petition which condemns the abductions and calls, inter alia, on the United Nations and the African Union to take action to secure their release and to invest in education for girls.

The United Nations is very concerned about the fate of the abducted school girls and the activities of Boko Haram in north-eastern Nigeria. I have, on several occasions, publicly condemned the activities of Boko Haram and called for the safe release of the school girls. On 8 May 2014, I designated my Special Representative and Head of the Office for West Africa, Mr. Said Djinnit, as my High-level Representative to Nigeria to support the Nigerian Government in its efforts to ensure the safe release of the school girls and to coordinate closely with key national, regional and international stakeholders in this regard. He has also worked with the United Nations country team in Nigeria to develop an integrated support package for the abducted school girls upon their release, as well as for the affected families and communities.

In addition to Mr. Djinnit's ongoing efforts, the United Nations country team has been actively engaged, in close cooperation with relevant national authorities, in addressing the socioeconomic, humanitarian and human rights consequences of the violence. In May 2014, they conducted a joint humanitarian assessment, with the National Emergency Management Agency of Nigeria, of the north-east of the country and are currently working closely with national and international partners to address the humanitarian needs of the affected communities.

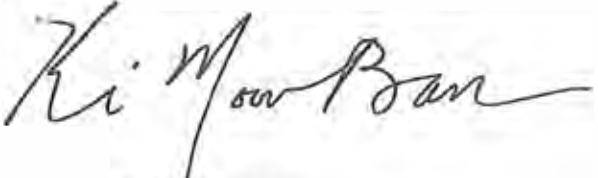
The Honorable Mark R. Warner  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

SG to Senator Mark R. Warner  
(abducted Nigerian schoolgirls)  
Drafter: DP  
Proofread by: J. S. [signature]  
Approved by: [signature]  
Date: 1 July 2014

With respect to the education of girls, the United Nations Children's Fund has been focusing efforts on encouraging their attendance at school and working to improve the quality of the education of girls, especially in the north of Nigeria. We will continue these efforts, including through the implementation of the "Girls Education Project", funded by the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom, which is working to get more than one million girls into school by 2020. The United Nations is also currently in the process of developing a Safe School Initiative for the north-eastern states of Nigeria, which is expected to be launched shortly by the United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education, Mr. Gordon Brown. I have repeatedly condemned the attacks against educational institutions in the north-east and affirmed that schools must remain safe places where children can learn and grow in peace.

Finally, we are strongly advocating cooperation among the affected countries in the region, especially in the areas of information-exchange and intelligence-sharing. The United Nations will continue to support regional and international efforts, including through the United Nations Office in West Africa, to prevent conflict and promote peace in West Africa.

Yours sincerely,



BAN/Ki-moon