

## **El Africa Regional Committee Resolution on the Abduction of Students, Teachers and Education Support Personnel in the Niger State of Nigeria**

**The Education International Africa Regional Committee (EIARC), meeting online, from 23 to 25 February 2021:**

### **Noting with concern that:**

1. In several parts of Africa, and particularly in Nigeria, teachers, Education Support Personnel (ESP) and students are at risk simply by coming to school, because armed forces consider them, schools and tertiary education institutions as legitimate targets;
2. Twenty-seven students and 15 others which included staff members from the Government Science College, Kagara, Headquarters of Rafi Local Government Area of the Nigerian state were taken hostage by armed groups on Wednesday, February 17, 2021;
3. The abduction of students by armed groups is recurrent in Nigeria with 112 girls kidnapped in Chibok, Borno State in 2014 still missing nearly seven years after 276 of them were taken from their school hostel by Boko Haram; 113 schoolgirls were also abducted by Boko Haram in Dapchi, Yobe in 2018, but 107 of them were released one month later; 340 students of Government Science Secondary School, Kankara in Katsina were similarly abducted by gunmen in December 2020 before they were released a week later after negotiations with the government;
4. Frequent abductions in Nigerian schools threatens to undermine the education of millions of children;

### **Considering that:**

5. Education is a fundamental human right no matter the circumstances, and that the utmost must be done to protect schools and children's right to education;
6. The quality of teaching and learning is enhanced by a safe, peaceful, secure, supportive, and conducive, learning environment that ensures the safety and health of all teachers and students as clearly stated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> pillars of the Continental Education Strategy for (CESA): 2016-2025;
7. Education authorities across the continent should ensure environments that are supportive, comfortable, safe, and secure for all;
8. Students of all ages, teachers, ESP, academics, education unions and education institutions in Nigeria and other countries on the continent are often targets of armed attacks and abductions;
9. Education International is promoting wide support and implementation of the [Safe Schools Declaration](#), which commits signatory states to protect education by improving monitoring

and reporting of attacks, assisting victims, investigating attacks, prosecuting perpetrators and introducing conflict sensitive approaches to education;

10. The Republic of Nigeria ratified the [Safe Schools Declaration](#) on 20 March 2019;
11. In 2009, EI adopted a Declaration that 'Schools Shall be Safe Sanctuaries' and engaged in advocacy initiatives to urge the international community to prevent violations of the right to education, to ensure the safety and security of learners, teachers and education support personnel everywhere, and to strengthen international law and end impunity;
12. The 8<sup>th</sup> EI World Congress held in Bangkok, Thailand, passed a resolution condemning attack against schools in Africa;
13. Over the years, EI has consistently condemned the murders of children and teachers who were killed in education environments;
14. Attacks against schools can severely reduce the availability of and access to education for many children in northern Nigeria;

#### **The EIARC:**

15. Condemns the abduction of twenty-seven students and 15 others, who include educators and their family members and the killing of one of the students from the Government Science College, Kagara, Headquarters of Rafi Local Government Area of the state by armed people;
16. Reaffirms solidarity with the Nigerian Union of Teachers (NUT) and all the Nigerian educators and students in their quest for peace, security and safety.
17. Demands the safe and immediate release of those students, staff and parents who were abducted;
18. Calls on the Nigerian Government to ensure that all the abducted children and educators are safely returned, and that their kidnappers are brought to justice; and,
19. Calls on the Nigerian Government to act immediately to prevent attacks on schools and other education institutions, and protect children's lives and their right to education, and to find a long-lasting solution to the kidnapping of students and education personnel.