



Bureau de
la présidente

*Au service des personnes
en mouvement avec son temps*

Montreal, May 20th 2014

The Hon. Barr Ezemwo Nyesom Wike
Minister of Education of Nigeria
Block 5A (3rd Floor), Federal Secretariat Complex
Shehu Shagari Way, Central Area, P.M.B. 146, Garki
Abuja, Nigeria

Email: enquiries@fme.gov.ng

Re: Stop the killing and abduction of students and teachers in Nigeria

Dear Minister,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Centrale des syndicats du Québec (CSQ) to ask your Government to step up decisive action to restore the right to education throughout your country by ensuring secure and safe schools for teaching and learning, as requested under the UN Education Envoy Gordon Brown's Safe Schools Initiative.

It is unacceptable that 171 teachers and hundreds of students have recently been killed in the States of North East Nigeria. Brutal attacks have increasingly targeted civilians, teachers, and government workers in Nigeria.

CSQ remains seriously concerned about the abduction of 223 schoolgirls from Chibok by Boko Haram. CSQ requests that all stakeholders in Nigeria increase their efforts to bring these girls, as well as all abducted civilians, back to their families. The Nigerian authorities should also provide security in the areas and ensure that the perpetrators of these crimes are brought to justice.

Education is a fundamental human right and the foundation for human fulfilment, peace, sustainable development, economic growth, decent work, gender equality and citizenship. Education is a key contributor to the reduction of inequalities and the eradication of poverty. However, Nigeria has at least 10 million children out-of-school; a number which has increased since 2000 when the Millennium Development Goals were adopted. CSQ therefore requests that the Government of Nigeria substantially increases the percentage of GDP

spent on education to meet the target of 6% as recommended by the United Nations.

CSQ would welcome a positive response to these urgent concerns.

Yours sincerely,

The president,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louise Chabot". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and "C".

Louise Chabot

Copies to: High Commission of Canada to Nigeria in Abuja,
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National Union of Teachers, nutnigeria_hqtrs@hotmail.com