

Peace News Notes



Some Good News About Nigeria

The Nigerian government announced that on Saturday May 6, 2017 82 of the Chibok schoolgirls abducted by Boko Haram in April 2014 have been freed in negotiations with the insurgents, according to reports from media outlets including the Associated Press, BBC and PBS. As with the release of 21 girls in October of 2016, the negotiations were carried out with help from the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Swiss government. This time reports say some Boko Haram suspects held by the Nigerian government were exchanged for the girls.

Church of the Brethren staff have received confirmation of this news from Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria). EYN president Joel S. Billi sent confirmation of the release and will pass on more information as it becomes known. The majority of the girls abducted from the school in Chibok are from Nigerian Brethren families.

The ordeal for the 82 girls is not over. They are now in the hands of the Nigerian government. **It is not clear when they will be able to see their families or actually be able to return home.** The 21 girls released in October 2016 are still being held by the Nigerian military in a 're-integration program.' (They were able to see their parents for Christmas at the home of a government official.)

Just over 100 of the Chibok school girls are still being held by Boko Haram. Amnesty International reminds the world that these girls are not the only ones being held. Amnesty International has records of 41 cases of mass abductions in the last three years. They know of **at least 2,000 additional women and children who are still being held by Boko Haram.**

The names of the 82 girls who have been freed was released by the Nigerian government. See this list of names at (<http://alphaplusmag.com/see-names-of-82-rescued-chibok-girls>). This list has not been confirmed by EYN church leaders.

Find a BBC News report at www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-39846326 Find information on the Nigeria Crisis Response of the Church of the Brethren and EYN at www.brethren.org/nigeriacrisis. Further news from the Brethren in Nigeria will be found at www.brethren.org.

**We are thankful that the girls have been freed from Boko Haram!
Please continue to be in prayer for:**

- The Chibok girls who have been freed
- The Chibok girls who are still missing
- All the families involved
- All other women and children who are missing and their families