



INSTITUTE OF THE BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS "LA SALLE"

VIA AURELIA 476
ROME – Italy

Rome, May 15, 2014

Dear Mr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, President of Nigeria.

We, the undersigned, Brothers of the Christian Schools, would like to send to your Excellency this message on behalf of all members of our Lasallian Family, the more than 86,000 educators and the nearly one million students who attend our educational institutions in 83 countries.

Particularly, we would like to join the educators and students of our schools in Nigeria and together with them and with all people of good will we express our strongest disapproval of the abduction of the 234 girls by the terrorist group Boko Haram.

We express our earnest desire that they can return to their families as soon as possible. We reject any ideology and religious belief that makes human beings and particularly children object of abuse of any kind. We would like to encourage you and your government to continue *ensuring equal and adequate educational opportunities at all levels and to strive to eradicate illiteracy by free and compulsory education*, as stated in the Constitution of Nigeria (art. 18)

We reaffirm the commitment of our Institution to continue offering in our educational centers in Nigeria and elsewhere in the world a type of education that will make our world a better place where *all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and where they act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood*, as stated in Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

It is this same spirit of brotherhood that leads us to commit ourselves to advocate for the Rights of Children, particularly in regard to education and protection against all forms of neglect, cruelty and exploitation. (Articles 5 and 9) As a former Education Inspector you know yourself that nothing like education changes a country and that educating a woman means educating an entire family. It is in this light that we are writing this letter to you knowing that you are taking this matter seriously to your heart.

Since 1682 we have been educating many generations of young men and women, with special care for the most vulnerable and needy. We and the entire Lasallian Family promise your Excellency to continue this mission for many years in Nigeria, so that events like this will never take place again.

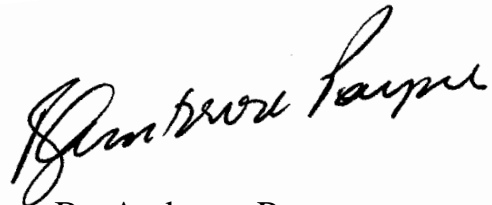
The signatories are gathered in the city of Rome, Italy, to celebrate the 45th General Chapter of our Institute. We join you and the parents of these girls in our prayers during this difficult moment in your country.

Sincerely yours.



Br. Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría

Superior General



Br. Ambrose Payne

General Chapter President