



CHURCH IN CHAINS

AN IRISH VOICE FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

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Dr Elizabeth Uzoma Emenike
Ambassador
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
56 Leeson Park
DUBLIN 6

20 September 2018

Your Excellency,

I write with an urgent appeal for your government to take action to secure the release of Leah Sharibu, a fifteen-year-old Christian who has been held by Boko Haram faction Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) since February, and two aid worker hostages, Alice Loksha Ngaddah and Hauwa Mohammed Liman.

As I am sure you are aware, earlier this week it emerged that ISWAP had killed Saifura Hussaini Ahmed Khorsa, a Muslim midwife with the International Committee of the Red Cross and that ISWAP has threatened to kill Leah Sharibu and the other two aid worker hostages.

Christians in Ireland have been following the case of Leah Sharibu since she was abducted as part of a group of 110 schoolgirls from the Government Girls Science and Technical College in Dapchi, Yobe State on 19 February. I understand that five girls died soon after being abducted and that in March 104 of the girls were released following the conclusion of an agreement with the Nigerian government that saw armed forces withdraw from the town, temporarily allowing Boko Haram unhindered access.

However, Leah Sharibu (the sole Christian in the group) was the only girl who was not released and her fellow schoolmates said that she had been "held back on religious grounds" due to her refusal to convert in exchange for her freedom.

I urge you to use your good offices to prioritise the release of Leah and the two aid worker hostages, Alice Loksha Ngaddah and Hauwa Mohammed Liman.

With thanks in anticipation of your support in this matter.

Yours respectfully,

David Turner
(Director)