

**Question for written answer E-006078/2014
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Barbara Matera (PPE)**

Subject: VP/HR - 200 girls abducted in Nigeria by the Islamic sect Boko Haram

The night between 14 and 15 April, a group of rebels led by the Islamic fundamentalist organisation Boko Haram stormed into the dormitory of a boarding school in Nigeria, abducting around 200 female students who came from various parts of the country.

According to statements made by Abubakar Shekau, the leader of the extremist group, in a video released shortly afterwards, the students were seized in order to be enslaved or sold as brides 'in the name of Allah'.

100 days have passed since the night of the abduction and despite the public mobilisation of numerous leading figures from the political, artistic and cultural spheres, who have called loudly for the release of the young Nigerian women, the latter continue to be held as prisoners by the Islamic sect.

Apparently, their release is subject to the release of an unspecified number of followers of the fundamentalist organisation, who are currently being held in Nigerian prisons.

1. Are any diplomatic negotiations currently under way, with the direct involvement of the European Union, in an attempt to free the abducted Nigerian girls?
2. If so, what specific measures are being taken by the EU in support of their release?