

□ Hayden offers resolution condemning Boko Haram abductions of Nigerian girls

Written by

Thursday, 15 May 2014 14:08



Senator Jeff Hayden (DFL-Minneapolis) is offering a resolution in the Minnesota Senate condemning the abduction of more than 250 girls from a Nigeria boarding school by the terrorist group Boko Haram.

Said Hayden, "People around the world are outraged by this atrocity, and we are adding one more voice to the cry for Nigeria: Bring Back Our Girls. This crisis demands a worldwide response to help rescue these girls and make their families whole again."

Boko Haram has been accused of abducting scores of women and girls, some as young as 12, to traffic them as sex slaves or force them to marry combatants. According to the International Crisis Group, Boko Haram's five-year insurgency has grown more ruthless, violent, and destructive, and has claimed the lives of more than 4,000 people and forced almost half a million others to flee their homes.

"Terrorist groups like Boko Haram try to exploit ethnic and religious divisions, but these appalling kidnappings have united the world around our shared humanity—we love our daughters, we love our sisters, and we will not tolerate this sort of senseless violence anywhere," said Hayden. "The 'Bring Back Our Girls' campaign is working. The media is paying attention, the pressure on Boko Haram is growing, and there is hope that these girls will get back home."

The resolution, introduced in the Minnesota Senate on Friday, May 9, concludes, "Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Minnesota that it condemns the horrific abductions of the Nigerian girls by the terrorist group Boko Haram and calls for their immediate release and increased efforts worldwide to combat human trafficking, particularly against women and girls."