

Nigeria Opens Door to Talks With Boko Haram on Kidnapped Girls



Abuja, May 14 (RHC)-- The Nigerian government has reversed its rejection of talks with Boko Haram militants on freeing the nearly 300 kidnapped schoolgirls held captive for more than a month.

On Tuesday, Nigerian Special Duties Minister Taminu Turaki said he is open to negotiations, including over the girls' fate. The Nigerian government had previously dismissed an apparent offer from the Boko Haram to free the girls in return for the government's release of the group's jailed members.

In Washington, White House Press Secretary Jay Carney confirmed U.S. forces are flying surveillance planes over Nigeria in a bid to find the girls. Carney also voiced opposition to ransom talks with the Boko Haram, but said the United States will follow Nigeria's lead.

Daily protests continue in Nigeria for the girls' return. In Lagos, women's rights activist Joei Odumakin vowed to march on the town where the girls were seized if they are not returned safely.

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