



Legislative Bulletin.....June 12, 2014

**H. Res. 617 – Condemning the abduction of female students by armed militants from the terrorist group known as Boko Haram in northeastern provinces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
(Rep. Frederica Wilson, D-FL)**

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on June 12, 2014, subject to a rule.

Summary: [H. Res. 617](#) condemns the abduction of 276 female students by armed militants from the terrorist group, Boko Haram in the northeastern provinces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The resolution further condemns the terrorist group for the kidnapping of 20 women from northeastern Nigeria on June 5, 2014, and eight girls from the ages of 12 to 15 on May 5, 2014.

The resolution also calls for the Government of Nigeria to strengthen efforts to protect children seeking to obtain an education and to hold those who conduct such violent attacks accountable. It encourages the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development to continue their support for initiatives that promote the human rights of women and girls in Nigeria; and supports offers of United States assistance, including offering U.S. personnel in a supporting role, in the search for these abducted girls. The resolution calls on the President to provide to Congress a comprehensive strategy to counter the growing threat posed by radical Islamist terrorist groups in West Africa, the Sahel, and North Africa.

Additional Information: The group responsible for the kidnapping, [Boko Haram](#), or loosely translated to “Western education is sin” in local Hausa language, has orchestrated a number of bloody attacks against the Nigerian state and the local population. On April 14, 2014, hours before the kidnapping in Chibok, and on May 2, 2014, Boko Haram bombed bus stations in Abuja, Nigeria, killing at least 94 people and wounding over 160, making it the deadliest set of attacks ever in Nigeria's capital. Boko Haram has consistently targeted schools, mosques, churches, villages, and agricultural centers, as well as government facilities, in an armed campaign to create an Islamic state in northern Nigeria, prompting the President of Nigeria to declare a state of emergency in three of the country's northeastern states in May 2013. In November 2013, the Department of State designated Boko Haram as a [Foreign Terrorist Organization](#). In response to the recent kidnappings, [80 U.S. military personnel](#) were deployed with intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance assets (ISR) to neighboring Chad to support and assist the Nigerian Government’s efforts to locate and free the women.

Congresswoman Wilson introduced a similar resolution ([H. Res. 573](#)) on May 6, 2014, which was agreed to by voice vote on May 20, 2014. The legislative bulletin for that resolution can be found [here](#).

Committee Action: The resolution was introduced by Congresswoman Wilson and was referred to the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: No Congressional Budget Office cost estimate is available.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: House Rules do not require constitutional authority statements for resolutions.

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