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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(27.1.2026)

The EU has been standing in solidarity with the victims of abductions perpetrated in Nigeria and their families enduring intense anguish. These attacks, such as the one aimed at St Mary's Catholic Primary and Secondary Schools in Papiri, struck at the heart of public confidence in the state's capacity to protect its citizens - particularly its children.

The EU has strongly condemned these vile and cruel attacks targeting minors and worshippers, which blatantly violate children's basic rights as well as freedom of religion and belief. The EU has given its full support to the Nigerian authorities' efforts to have all remaining hostages safely released without delay - and to prevent other similar attacks.

The EU has taken comfort in recent reports of the release of the 130 schoolchildren still held captive by armed groups. The EU stands ready to work alongside Nigerian authorities and international partners to strengthen the protection of schools, which should be sanctuaries of safety and opportunity for every Nigerian child. The EU and Nigeria will step up their joint efforts to enhance intelligence cooperation, early warning systems involving the communities and comprehensive assistance including psychosocial care for survivors and their families.