

Boko Haram demands members release in new video

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A screen shot taken yesterday from a video released on youtube by Boko Haram showing one of the groups fighters at an undisclosed location standing in front of girls allegedly kidnapped from Chibok in April 2014.

The Boko Haram group yesterday released a video showing some of the 276 girls they abducted from Government Girls Secondary School, Chibok, in Borno State over two years ago.

A fighter, who stood by the girls, said over 40 of the captives had been married off while a handful of them had allegedly been killed in air raids by Nigerian Air Force fighter jets.

This is the third video showing that many of the Chibok girls are alive.

The first was released on May 5, 2014. The second was shown by the CNN in December, 2015.

Experts believe that the latest video was a sign of desperation by the Boko Haram, especially the side of Abubakar Shekau, which is keeping the girls as both bargaining chip and human shield.

Less than two weeks ago, the Islamic State appointed Abu Musab Al-Barnawy, the son of late founder of the group, Mohammed Yusuf, as its leader in West Africa, a move resisted by Shekau.

In the latest video, the man clad in military uniform, hanging an AK47 rifle, and who spoke in Hausa, directed his message to the government and the girls' parents.

He said the video was released to show that some of the girls were still alive but would only be exchanged with Boko Haram members in custody of Nigerian

authorities.

Nearly 50 of the girls were shown in the video wearing Hijab, some sitting and others standing against a background.

One of the girls was seen with a baby in her hand.

“These are the Chibok girls that have been in our custody in the past two years.

This is to also tell their parents that some of the girls are still alive,” he said.

“Secondly, the Chibok parents should tell the Federal Government of Nigeria to release our brethren, especially those in custody in Maiduguri, Lagos, Abuja and other parts of the country as the only condition for the release of these girls.

“Again, you all know that the girls were many but you will never rescue them, you will never rescue them until you do our biddings.

“Similarly, at least forty of the Chibok girls have been married off and many of them have been killed by Nigeria’s fighter jets as a result of aerial bombardments. As a result of the attacks, some of the girls have sustained broken limbs and various injuries.

“By and large, as you can see, many of the girls are here with us and they could only be released when our brethren are released,” he said.

The man also said that they would use some means to release their members being held in various prisons across Nigeria. The man said aside a journalist, any individual or group that claimed to be in touch with them, or has the capacity to rescue the girls was lying.

“The only person we know is a journalist. Leave our brethren and we would leave your daughters. But you (President) Muhammadu Buhari, if you feel you’ve a superior might that you will deploy to rescue the girls, then go a head and see if they would find the girls alive,” he said.

Reach out to our abductors – Chibok girl

One of the girls, Maida Yakubu, who spoke in Hausa and Chibok languages, pleaded with Nigerian government to accept the insurgents’ offer.

Maida confirmed she is a native of Chibok and was among those abducted from GGSS Chibok, saying they have been in custody for over two years.

“I am from Chibok and I want to go back home. I am pleading with Nigerian government to release their people so that they can also release us to go.

“Some of our friends are dead, they were killed by the planes and some are terribly sick,” she said.

As she spoke, some of her friends were seen sobbing in the background. She also urged their parents to be patient.