

Shaku's Story

Shaku – brother of one of the Chibok girls kidnapped from school by terrorists. On the 14th April 2014 heavily armed militants from the Boko Haram group broke into the Chibok boarding secondary school and kidnapped 200 girls.

Weeks later some managed to escape but many are still being held hostage. Saratu, was one of the girls and her abduction has left the family in trauma. 100 days after the Chibok girls were abducted, Saratu's brother, 16 year-old Shaku, talks about this tragedy.



“I was the last one to see my sister Saratu as I took her and my cousin Elizabeth back to school on my father's motorbike. It was the week before they were abducted.

“Ever since the abduction I haven't been able to sleep because of the trauma. I often feel dizzy and sometimes I can't eat. I cry a lot whenever I think of my sister.

“Even my father, when he tried to comfort me, would cry as well. My mother too. They can't stop crying. They can't even go to work they're so upset.

“Everyday people would come out screaming, 'the insurgents are coming'. So we would all run and hide in the fields, especially at night.



“I love my sister very much, we were very close. She was older than me and I remember she would sit with me and help me learn to read. When I think of these memories I start to cry, especially when I’m alone at night.”

In northern Nigeria, the violence from Boko Haram has displaced 1.4 million children from their homes and destroyed 900 schools.

The plight of the girls has attracted worldwide attention and condemnation but is also having a detrimental effect on education in Nigeria, a country that already had the highest number of children out of school. Fears of kidnap and abduction are only serving to discourage both girls and boys from attending school; 8.7m children are out of school, 60% of these children are in the north of Nigeria.

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