



Marlborough House ● Pall Mall ● London SW1Y 5HX ● United Kingdom ● secretariat@cwealthstudents.org

Amplifying student voices throughout the Commonwealth

For Immediate Release

23 July 2026

STATEMENT OF COMMENDATION

ON THE RESCUE OF ALL ABDUCTED PUPILS AND TEACHERS FROM ORIIRE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, OYO STATE, NIGERIA

The Commonwealth Students' Association (hereinafter referred to as the CSA), the single official representative body for over 1.4 billion students across the Commonwealth's 56 nations, receives with profound relief the news that all pupils and teachers abducted from three schools in Oriire Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria on 15th May, 2026, have been rescued after 56 days in captivity.

The CSA commends the Government of Nigeria for the resolve and unity of purpose that secured this outcome; most especially the security forces whose sustained and courageous operational effort, without concession to the terrorists' demands, brought these children and educators home. We honour their service. We also honour the memory of Mr. Michael Oyedokun, mathematics teacher, who did not return, and whose sacrifice must never be forgotten.

This rescue is a moment of relief, not a moment of closure. The conditions that made Oriire possible remain. The CSA therefore urges the Government of Nigeria to move with urgency on the practical measures already articulated in the Commonwealth Student Safety and Security Agreement (ratified October 26, 2024); specifically: dedicated security presence in school zones, particularly in rural and remote communities (Article I); comprehensive emergency response protocols for active threats (Article II); enhanced intelligence capacity and tracking technologies to intercept terrorist groups that prey on rural schools (Article IV); and structured psychosocial support for every rescued child and teacher (Article XII). It can be found [here](#)

We also speak directly to the political community: schools are sacred. They must never become bargaining chips in budget negotiations or casualties of political inaction. Every elected official has a duty to govern as though the children in those classrooms are their own.

The CSA remains available to engage with the Government of Nigeria and all Commonwealth Member States in the implementation of the Agreement. We stand by every child in a classroom, and we will not rest until every school is safe.

ENDS.

Issued by:

The Commonwealth Students' Association
On behalf of students across the Commonwealth.



Notes to Editors

1. The Commonwealth Students' Association (CSA) is the single, official representative body for student organisations across the 56 independent and equal Commonwealth countries. Its headquarters is located at the Commonwealth Secretariat, Marlborough House, London, United Kingdom.
2. The CSA defends, represents, and advocates for the interests of approximately 1.4 billion students and young people across the Commonwealth, representing more than 60 per cent of the Commonwealth population aged 29 or under.
3. The CSA is the first established youth network in the Commonwealth and one of 13 youth networks supported by the Commonwealth Youth Programme.
4. Established in 2012 at the 18th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers (CCEM) in Mauritius, the CSA's scope of representation spans from early childhood education through to postgraduate level.
5. The CSA Executive Committee comprises elected student leaders, including the President, who chairs the Committee; three Vice Presidents; a Special Interest Groups Representative; and five Regional Representatives for Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Americas, Europe and Canada, and the Pacific. These officers are further supported by Country Representatives serving within their respective Regional Committees/Working Groups/Taskforces.
6. Visit: www.cwealthstudents.org for more information