

Nigerian Girl Commences One Year Abduction

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By Tiamoyo Harris, Contributing Writer



Patience, 18, speaking in Howard University's Rankin Memorial Chapel
(Tiamoyo Harris / Spotlight Network)

Last year, the hashtag #BringBackOurGirls blazed social media. From activists to celebrities, everyone including our first lady, Michelle Obama, wanted to bring back over 300 Nigerian girls who were abducted by Muslim militant group, Boko Haram. On Tuesday, April 14, one of the girls who escaped from the terrorist group, Patience, 18, commenced the one-year anniversary in Rankin Memorial Chapel.

“This is an international story and an international event and we feel that Howard University should lead it,” said World Ebony Network Founder and CEO Ezi Mecha, Ph.D. “A youth focused event is very important to weigh in on the trauma they are facing.”

[World Ebony Network](#), a grassroots organization dedicated to strengthening the black family and to appreciate the good aspects of other heritages, social activist and self-proclaimed global citizen, Marcia Dyson, and Howard University partnered for the event in Rankin that about 60 individuals in the Howard community came to support. The event was created not only to celebrate the anniversary of the day the girls were abducted and some escaped, but to inform the community on what can be done to help the girls now living in the U.S. and the remaining girls in captivity.

“These girls have bullets that ruin their soul. It didn’t ruin their faces, but it tore their soul,” Dyson. “They’re on this stage so they can represent for kidnapping and the value of education.”

Patience sat in the pews on the front row with her pink sunglasses on as projector showed a cartoon version of the tragedy that changes her life. During the program, she received a standing ovation as she walked on the stage and sang “Amazing Grace” in English a language she recently opted to learn. One of the people who has helped Patience and other Nigerian girls with their placement in the

United States is human rights Attorney Emmanuel Ogebe.

“I think the story here of this young lady was one of taking a step in faith,” Ogebe said. “The news had gone around the world and yet the girls who had escaped had fallen through the cracks. So I said we have to do something to help these girls.”

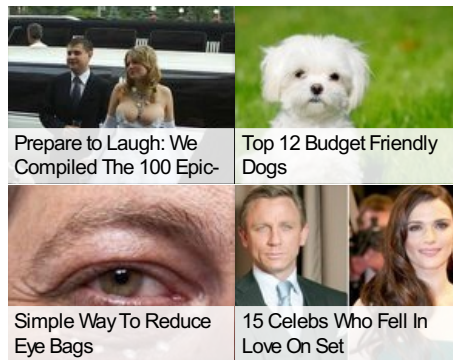
Ogebe has helped to put 10 girls in school in the U.S. in Virginia and Oregon. He even advocated to congressman and leaders for government aid. Still additional support is need for the cause and the organizers from the event placed an emphasis on that additional support to come from students.

“Hearing this little girl sing ‘Amazing Grace’ was the most powerful thing in the world and it just empowers you to think ‘what can I do as a student,’ especially if it’s not donate a million dollars,” said senior biology major Kelley Butler of Los Angeles, California.

Education was the primary reason Boko Haram kidnapped the girls who at the time of their abduction had just finished their final exams. Now Howard professor Marilyn Sephocle wants students who are offered to have an education to realize this and to make a change.

“It is very important to be in action after you leave this weigh in,” Sephocle said. “Not as a passive observer but as a person that will bring a contribution so that what happened in Chibok will not happen again.”

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