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**DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION**

**Press Release N°360/2016**

**AU welcomes the release of 21 Chibok girls**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia – 14 October 2016:** The Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma has received with great joy the news of the release of 21 Chibok girls in Nigeria. Over 200 girls were abducted from a boarding school in Chibok, Nigeria in April 2014, by the militant Islamic Group, Boko Haram.

“I very warmly welcome release of the 21 of the abducted Chibok girls and commend the authorities and all those who facilitated their release. Let us all facilitate their rehabilitation into families and society, help in healing their trauma. But we must continue to forge on to secure the release of all the girls and bring them back to their families,” Dr. Dlamini Zuma said.

The chairperson further expressed her hope and trust in the Government of Nigeria and all authorities to continue working to keep the safety and well being of the remaining girls as a high priority.

She went on to urge the African and International community to continue supporting the efforts of the Nigerian government and all stakeholders to bring back the rest of the abducted girls back home to their families and to the nation as a whole.

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