Idara-e-Taleem o Aagahi (ITA) and Other Organizations

Candle vigil on 100 days of abduction of the 200 Nigerian Girls from Chibok to Bannu #BringOurGirlsBack

Idara-e-Taleem O Aagahi (ITA), in collaboration with Beydaari (Youth Led Initiative), Child Right Movement (CRM), and Goad Organization conducted a candle vigil and demonstration to show solidarity with the international community on the 100 days of abduction of the 219 Nigerian Girls from Chibok. The candle vigil and demonstration titled “#BringOurGirlsBack; took place on July 22, 2014, at Lahore Press club at 5.30 pm.

On the night of 14-15 April 2014, 276 female students were kidnapped from the Government Secondary School in the town of Chibok in Borno State, Nigeria. The kidnappings were claimed by religious extremist group, Boko Haram, against the westernization of Nigerian Muslims. July 22-23 will mark 100 days of this dreadful tragedy, hence, as activists for education for ALL, especially girls, we have arranged for vigils all across Pakistan on the same day. There will be a session on 24th July titled “HerRightToEducation; Ensuring Quality Education for ALL Girls; from Chibok to Bannu #BringOurGirlsBack”. This shall be a continuation of the protest and we hope that it will raise awareness of the need to address the inequality and injustice in girls’ education in Pakistan.

Baela Reza Jamil, Director Programs, ITA also condemned Boko Haram for a clear violation of human rights and denying a basic right to the girls of Nigeria. She highlighted a similar plight of the girls of Pakistan where almost 11.3% were still out of school nationally (ASER Pakistan 2013). Alarming gaps were identified in provinces where 17.3% girls are out of school in Balochistan and 15.4% in Sindh leaves a large gap in issues of access, quality and learning outcomes for girls (ASER Pakistan 2013). Moreover, over 750,000 people have been reported to be displaced from North Waziristan, including mostly girls and children (Daily Times 2014). It is not shocking to admit that girls are at the greatest loss.

Slogans and messages of solidarity with the Nigerian girls were chanted by the crowd to record their voice against the atrocities on education. The need to address immediate implementation of Article 25-A, Right to Education was also brought forward. Members of the youth, civil society, media and government representatives stood very firmly for the rights of girls’ education and made a plea to the Nigerian commission in Pakistan to please deliver their messages for solidarity to the Nigerian government in this difficult time of need.