## Small Comfort as Parents See Daughters in Video

From Page Al

C M Y K

missing, are now bargaining chips for Boko Haram, which is demanding that the Nigerian government release its imprisoned members in exchange for the kidnapped students.

But while much of the world saw the girls sitting passively and compliant in the video, many of their families had to wait. One parent explained that there was no electricity in their village to enable them to watch, a poignant reminder of how poor many victims in the conflict here often are.

By the end of Tuesday, 77 faces in the solemn crowd of girls, newly clad from head to toe in somber black-and-gray robes, had been recognized, the state governor's office said in a statement. The robes, revealing only the schoolgirls' faces, rendered some of them difficult to identify, some parents said.

The government had arranged a first showing of the video in Chibok on Monday to identify the girls, but it had to be halted abruptly when the parents became overcome with grief, demanding that the government's identification process be moved here to Maiduguri.

"The families became upset and they started crying 'this is my child,'" a senior state official said Tuesday evening. "They started shouting. They had to stop the filming."

Then on Tuesday, the state government organized a group of about 15 parents, relatives and girls who had escaped the Islamists to make the arduous journey to the state capital here to watch the video. They were guarded by rifle-bearing militia members from the village in red uniforms because the road is still preyed on by Boko Haram.

The group, along with teachers, officials and security operatives, packed into the room at the government complex and locked

the door. When the parents emerged, their universe of anxiety had shifted. Some appeared dazed and perturbed as they slumped in plastic chairs on the grounds of the state-run hotel here.

"She's not feeling O.K.," said Lawan Zanah, who had just seen his daughter Ayesha, 18, in the video. "The way she is sitting. She doesn't even know where she is. She seemed sad. Sad."

The girls had come to the Chibok Government Girls Secondary School to take their final exams, and many were staying overnight there. Armed and uniformed men rounded them up, loaded them into trucks and drove off with them. Although about 50 escaped, not a single one of the remaining girls has been found.

Ms. Yaga conveyed the shock, four weeks later, of going to fetch her daughter and not finding her there.

"My daughter was living in the school," she said. "When I went in the morning to see her, she wasn't there."

The video may have provided some relief to the parents, but on Tuesday there were no indications that the girls were any closer to being located. The Islamists are likely to be holding them in a vast forest of low trees and scrub that abuts Chibok, but so far Nigerian military efforts have been unsuccessful.

Boko Haram has conducted large-scale attacks on government and civilian targets, including schools, and the Nigerian government has waged a bloody counterinsurgency against the group, detaining and killing hundreds of suspects and civilians.

But statements from the Nigerian government suggested that officials might be open to negotiations, while senior American military and civilian officials arrived in the national capital, Abuja, for talks with the government.

Gen. David M. Rodriguez, com-



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE — GETTY IMAGES
Relatives of the Nigerian girls kidnapped last month arrived on Tuesday in Maiduguri to view a video released by the abductors.

manding general of the American military's Africa Command, visited Nigeria on Monday and Tuesday to discuss assistance for the search, including surveillance aircraft and satellite imagery, as well as broader security cooperation with Nigerian officials, a Pentagon spokesman, Lt. Col.

Myles B. Caggins III, said Tuesday.

"It's certain General Rodriguez reassured the Nigerians that the U.S. is committed to supporting their efforts to find the kidnapped schoolgirls," Colonel Caggins said.

The general arrived Monday

on a previously scheduled visit for talks with his Nigerian counterparts that also included senior American policy makers and diplomats, including Sarah Sewall, the undersecretary of state for civilian security, democracy and human rights, Colonel Caggins

The international effort, expanding last weekend as the plight of the girls captured the global imagination, appeared to be of some comfort to the parents who came here Tuesday.

Yet uncertainty and longing prevailed. "I just want my daughter to be back," Mr. Wattai said.

## World Briefing

ASIA

#### Pakistan: Departing Travelers Must Get Polio Vaccine

As of June 1, Pakistan will require everyone leaving the country to get a polio vaccination, the Health Ministry said Tuesday. The World Health Organization declared the spread of polio an international public health emergency this month and identified Pakistan, Syria and Cameroon as having allowed the virus to spread beyond their borders. Pakistani officials said all provinces had been given the necessary guidance and materials to set up special counters at hospitals and airports for polio vaccination and certification. (AP)

MIDDLE EAST

### Saudi Arabia: Iranian Defense Minister Is Invited

Saudi Arabia has invited Iran's foreign minister to visit, Saudi officials said Tuesday, a move that would hint at the possibility of a thaw between two bitter rivals. The Saudi foreign minister, Prince Saud al-Faisal, said at a news conference that Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif had been invited but did not say when, or if, Iran had formally responded. Iran's president, Hassan Rouhani, has adopted a conciliatory tone toward its neighbors since taking office last year, but while Mr. Zarif has visited other Arab gulf states, he has not been to Saudi Arabia. (REUTERS)

AFRICA

### South Africa: Prosecutor Seeks Evaluation of Pistorius

Gerrie Nel, the prosecutor in the trial of Oscar Pistorius, the track star accused of murdering his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp, last year, formally applied Tuesday for him to undergo a 30-day psychiatric evaluation. The move followed testimony on Monday by a forensic psychiatrist testifying for the defense that Mr. Pistorius had "general anxiety disorder," dating to the amputation of his legs below the knee as a baby and a childhood dominated by a largely absent father and a mother so anxious about potential intruders that she slept with a firearm under her pillow.

ALAN COWELL

### Central African Republic: Sanctions for Former Leader

President Obama has imposed sanctions on the Central African Republic's former president, François Bozizé, and four other men linked to violence and human rights abuses in the country, the White House said Tuesday. The country has been racked by sectarian violence for a year since Seleka rebels, who are mostly Muslim, seized power, and militias known as "anti-balaka" and who are mainly Christian, fought back. The sanctions, which freeze assets and ban travel, followed sanctions imposed last week by the United Nations Security Council on Mr. Bozizé, who is an "anti-balaka" supporter, and two others. (REUTERS)

EUROPE

### The Hague: Court to Review British War Crime Inquiry

The prosecutor at the International Criminal Court, Fatou Bensouda, said Tuesday that she had reopened a preliminary war crimes investigation into accusations that British officials were responsible for the systematic abuse of Iraqi prisoners by Britain's military from 2003 to 2008. A similar investigation was closed in 2006, but Ms. Bensouda said she would review whether new information she received in January justified reopening the case. Although Iraq has not signed the Rome Statute, which governs the court's proceedings, Britain has, and its citizens can in theory be prosecuted for crimes committed in Iraq or elsewhere. However, the court, which is based in The Hague, can proceed only if the allegations are not being properly investigated by the British authorities themselves.

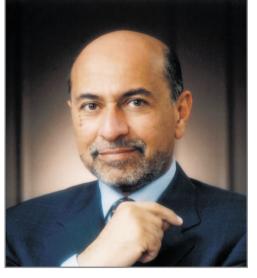
### THE AMERICAS

### Uruguay: Inmate Tapped Into Ambassador's Phone

A Uruguayan inmate tapped into the United States ambassador's cellphone and tried to commit fraud, the authorities said Tuesday. Officials said the inmate got Ambassador Julissa Reynoso's voicemail password. "He got access to some messages left by some of my friends. And he was able to — I don't know how — send certain messages from prison to some of my contacts," Ms. Reynoso told Uruguay's Canal 10 TV. FM Gente radio in Maldonado first reported the tapping, saying the police discovered it while investigating the inmate for other fraud. (AP)



# Meridian International Center's Board of Trustees is honored to present

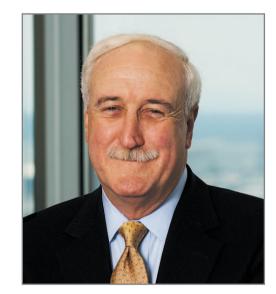


M. Shafik Gabr

Chairman and Managing Director ARTOC Group for Investment and Development

with the MERIDIAN GLOBAL CITIZEN AWARD

for his work, and that of the Shafik Gabr Foundation, in cultural diplomacy and commitment to building bridges of understanding between the Middle East, the U.S., and the world.



The Honorable Sean O'Keefe

Former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Airbus Group, Inc.

with the MERIDIAN CORPORATE LEADER AWARD

for his leadership at NASA and the U.S. Navy, dedication to corporate citizenship at Airbus, and commitment to empowering the next generation through leadership in higher education.



## The Honorable Ray LaHood Dinner Chairman

Headquartered in Washington, D.C., Meridian International Center is one of the world's premier organizations for global leadership. Meridian delivers a suite of educational and cultural programs alongside conferences, summits, and other neutral forums to prepare today's leaders for the complex challenges facing their communities, organizations, and countries. Building on more than 50 years of experience in preparing future Heads of State, Ambassadors, and CEOs to better understand global issues and cultures, Meridian provides the resources for both established and emerging leaders to exchange ideas, collaborate on solutions, and build valuable relationships. For information contact olivia@cblaneygroup.com.

meridian.org/awards