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## THE WEEK IN RIGHTS

May 8, 2014

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### Girls' Abductions a Last Straw for Nigerians



Photo © 2014 Reuters

By Mausi Segun

The images of sorrowful parents, weeping profusely and brokenly asking when their daughters would be rescued, have struck a chord across Nigeria. The murmurs of discontent swelled with the government's confused and inadequate responses to basic questions about the abduction of more than 276 girls from their secondary school by suspected Islamic militants. The frustration reached a crescendo when unconfirmed rumors surfaced that the girls might have been sold into marriage to members of the militant group for a \$12 dowry.

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### [Couldn't Nigeria Find Anyone Else to Arrest?](#)

Nigerian State Security Service agents this morning arrested Saratu Angus Ndirpaya and Naomi Mutah Nyadar. Their

crime? Leading protests that criticized the government of President Goodluck Jonathan. They were arrested after an all-night meeting with his wife, Patience Jonathan, at the presidential villa in the capital, Abuja.

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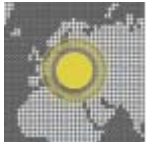


## [Punished for Protesting in Venezuela](#)

Since massive protests began on February 12, Venezuelan security forces have committed systematic human rights violations against unarmed demonstrators – such as brutal beatings and shootings at point blank range – and subjected detainees to a range of abuses, including electric shocks and death threats. Meanwhile, justice officials have routinely failed to safeguard detainees' rights, denying them access to lawyers until minutes before their hearings, which are often held in the middle of the night. While Venezuelan authorities have repeatedly claimed these violations are isolated cases, a new report shows they are instead part of the worst pattern of abuse the country has seen in years.

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## [Dispatches: A Damning Silence From Kiev](#)

By Anna Neistat

Did I miss something? Authorities in Ukraine, a country seeking closer association with the European Union and swearing allegiance to human rights and democratic values, arrested a man. The next day, lurid photos of the man – naked, bearing scratches, and hands tied – appeared on the Facebook and Twitter pages of the leader of a Ukraine radical party, who says he plans to exchange him for the ousted president Yanukovich.

And through all of this, a deafening silence out of Kiev.

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## [The United States: A Nation Behind Bars](#)

The "land of the free" has become a country of prisons. Too many men and women are serving harsh prison sentences for nonviolent and often minor crimes. How can a country committed to liberty send minor dealers to die in prison for selling small amounts of illegal drugs to adults?

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### PHOTOS



Boko Haram attacks, security force abuses, and spiraling violence in

### TWEET of the WEEK



Why we need journalism - wrote this to mark World #PressFreedom Day. Also thinking of journalists in jail #Egypt

### IN MEMORY



Human Rights Watch deeply mourns the passing of Jean-Baptiste Benguehya Mwezi, our operations manager in

Nigeria (Published October 10, 2012).  
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