



Statement of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on the release of school children in Cameroon

Addis Ababa, 7 November 2018: The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, welcomes reports of the release of 79 schoolchildren who were abducted, together with members of the teaching staff, from their school in the North-West Region of Cameroon, on 5 November 2018.

“I share the relief of the parents for the safe return of their children, and their rapid release to safety. I call for the immediate release of the members of staff,” Chairperson Faki said.

“Abduction of children and depriving them of their right to safety and education constitutes a serious violation of their fundamental human rights, and I urge that the perpetrators be identified and brought to justice for this criminal act,” the Chairperson further stated.

The Chairperson remains gravely concerned at the continued violence in the North-West and South-West regions of Cameroon, and calls for renewed efforts to address the situation and find a lasting solution through an inclusive dialogue.