For Immediate Release May 7, 2014

Contact: Janet Bass 202-879-4554 <u>jbass@aft.org</u> www.aft.org

AFT's Randi Weingarten on #BringBackOurGirls

WASHINGTON—Statement by American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten on the kidnapping of Nigerian school girls:

"Education is the path out of poverty, and all children—girls included—deserve the opportunity to attend school and secure a high-quality education. It is abhorrent, unconscionable and morally reprehensible that Boko Haram extremists have abducted hundreds of Nigerian girls. It is equally heinous that they have threatened to sell them into slavery just because they were going to school. This is human trafficking at its worst. All eyes of the world are watching to make sure everything humanly possible is being done to find the girls, and to ensure that no more are kidnapped and that the abductors are found."

The AFT and Education International are urging people to take Instagram photos holding a sign saying #BringBackOurGirls, and to post the photos on http://aftunion.tumblr.com/submit

Follow AFT President Randi Weingarten: http://twitter.com/rweingarten

###

The AFT represents 1.5 million pre-K through 12th-grade teachers; paraprofessionals and other school-related personnel; higher education faculty and professional staff; federal, state and local government employees; nurses and healthcare workers; and early childhood educators.

