



BRING THEM BACK. Students from St. Scholastica's College, a Catholic school in Manila, show messages on their forearms as they shout slogans and display placards during a protest outside their campus in Manila, the Philippines. Thousands of Filipino students from the school joined a global campaign to free more than 200 schoolgirls abducted by Islamic extremists in Nigeria, chanting "bring them back" and urging motorists in the Philippine capital to honk their car horns in solidarity. (AP Photo/Bullit Marquez)

Filipino students: Free kidnapped Nigerian girls

MANILA, The Philippines (AP) — Thousands of Filipino students from a Roman Catholic-run school for girls have joined a global campaign to free more than 200 schoolgirls abducted by Islamic extremists in Nigeria, chanting "bring them back" and urging motorists in the Philippine capital to honk their car horns in solidarity.

About 4,000 grade school to college students and nuns of St. Scholastica's College spilled out of their campus to line up a busy street in Manila, many of them carrying placards that read "Bring Back Our Girls" and thumping their fists in the air as they chanted. They gave commuters a statement calling for the release of the girls and affirming their belief that girls deserve to be educated.

Extremists from Boko Haram — which means "western education is sinful" —

first abducted more than 200 schoolgirls in Nigeria in April. Witnesses said they took 91 more people, including toddlers as young as three, in attacks on villages in that African country last month, providing fresh evidence of the military's failure to curb an Islamic uprising and the government's inability to provide security.

The most recent victims included 60 girls and women, some of whom were married, and 31 boys, witnesses said.

Celine Saplala, a nun and official of the school, said the rally was meant to appeal to the abductors and to people all over the world to free the girls and respect "their right just like anybody else to pursue their dream for an education."

"Please bring back our girls," said senior college student Roelle Charmaine Bito. "We have the right to be educated, each and every one of us."

Cigarette makers ignore Indonesia label deadline

By Margie Mason
AP Medical Writer

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Tobacco companies largely ignored an Indonesian deadline to put graphic health warnings on all cigarette packs being sold, another setback for anti-smoking efforts in a country that is home to the world's highest rate of male smokers and a wild, wild west of advertising.

Despite having a year-and-a-half to prepare warning photos that are to cover 40 percent of cigarette packs, most tobacco companies failed to meet the June 24 deadline, according to the National Commission for Child Protection. It found little sign of change in brands sold in Jakarta and 11 other cities across the sprawling archipelago.

"This clearly indicates that the cigarette industry has defied Indonesian law," said commission chair Arist Merdeka Sirait. "The government has been defeated by the cigarette industry."

Only 409 of the more than 3,300 brands owned by 672 companies nationwide had registered the photos they plan to use on their products as of June 23, according to the Food and Drug Monitoring Agency. They were given a choice of five images last June.

Health minister Nafsiah Mboi said companies that missed the deadline will be issued warnings, and those that fail to comply could eventually be fined up to \$42,000 and executives could face five years in prison.

Indonesia's biggest cigarette producer, Philip Morris-owned Sampoerna, said it began distributing products with the new warnings, but needed more time to clear out existing stock. But the labels were



LAG IN LABELLING. New packs of cigarettes displaying pictorial health warnings are arranged on a counter by a shop attendant for photographers at a convenience store in Jakarta, Indonesia. Tobacco companies largely snubbed an Indonesian law requiring them to put graphic photo warnings on all cigarette packs being sold, marking another setback in a country that is home to the world's highest rate of male smokers and a wild, wild west of advertising. A national survey in 2012 found that 67 percent of all males over age 15 smoke. (AP Photo/Tatan Syullana)

supposed to be displayed on shelves by June 24, Mboi said.

"We believe the government will implement the regulation consistently and fairly, so as to realize a climate of healthy competition among cigarette manufacturers, as well as providing clear information about the impact of smoking on health," Sampoerna spokesman Tommy Hersyaputera said.

Indonesia has a long history of delaying tobacco regulations. The graphic warnings stem from health regulations that passed in 2009, though it wasn't until 18 months ago that a specific decree was issued for implementation. And Indonesia is one of the few countries that has not joined a World Health Organization tobacco treaty. The order has taken years to reach President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's desk, and he still has not signed it. He will leave office in October after elections this month.

Tobacco control is particularly contentious in Indonesia, the world's fifth-largest cigarette producer and a growth market for the industry. Farmers hold rowdy protests when restrictions

are proposed, and lobbyists maintain tight connections with politicians in a government rife with graft.

Many forms of tobacco advertising long banned in the west remain ubiquitous here. Towering billboards and LED screens scream messages such as, "Marlboro Ice Blast ... crush it, unleash it." At the main international airport, a bright blue advertisement for Clas mild cigarettes urges, "Act Now! Talk less do more." Tobacco commercials are still on television, and although new regulations ban sponsorship of events, some companies have continued that practice.

Tobacco-related illnesses kill at least 200,000 each year in the country, which has a population of around 240 million. A national survey in 2012 found that 67 percent of all males over age 15 smoke — the world's highest rate — while 35 percent of the total population lights up, surpassed only by Russia.

Most Indonesian men buy strong and pungent *kreteks*, filled with a mix of tobacco and cloves. But so-called white cigarettes, such as U.S.-based Philip Morris International's

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