

Education in Danger

Monthly News Brief

March 2019

Attacks on education

The section aligns with the definition of attacks on education used by the Global Coalition to Protect Education under Attack (GCPEA) in [Education under Attack 2018](#).

This monthly digest comprises threats and incidents of violence as well as protests and other events affecting education.

Africa

Burkina Faso

11 March 2019: In Centre-Nord region, between Namssiguia and Djibo towns, two teachers were abducted and killed following the earlier abduction of an NGO worker nearby.

Sources: [ACLED](#)¹ and [UN-OCHA](#)

It is prepared by Insecurity Insight and draws on information collected by Insecurity Insight and the [Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack \(GCPEA\)](#) from information available in open sources.

11 March 2019 (DOA): In Foubé village, unspecified perpetrators kidnapped an unspecified number of aid workers who were about to reopen an unnamed school. The opening of the school was consequently delayed. **Source:** [Reuters](#)

GCPEA provided technical guidance on definitions of attacks on education.

Burundi

11 March 2019: In Djibo town, jihadist militants kidnapped and killed two teachers with the intention of scaring fellow educators into abandoning their posts in the region. **Source:** [Channel Africa](#)

Data from the Education in Danger Monthly News Brief is available on [HDX](#) Insecurity Insight.

Cameroon

05 March 2019. In Ekondo-Titi town, Ndian department, Southwest province, an unidentified armed group attacked the Cameroon College of Arts and Sciences. Staff and students were required to leave the campus but no reports of civilian casualties. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

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05 March 2019. In Bamenda, Mezam district, Ambazonian separatists kidnapped three students from Bamenda University, releasing them 2 days later. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

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20 March 2019: In Buea city, Southwest region, unidentified perpetrators kidnapped 20 students from the University of Buea, all members of the university's football team. The victims were tortured and released on 22 March 2019. **Sources:** [CNN](#) and [UN-OCHA](#)

Ghana

14 March 2019: In Winneba town, Central region, Effutu district, police fired warning shots and tear gas at students during a protest at the University of Education Winneba (UEW), resulting in students throwing back stones at the police. At least 10 people including some students were injured. The UEW administration indefinitely closed down the campus following the incident.

Source: [GhanaWeb](#)

Kenya

22 March 2019: In Marakuru, Bungoma governorate, Kibabi University has been closed indefinitely after students held a demonstration and destroyed property. Police used tear gas to disperse the protesters. **Sources:** [ACLEDD¹](#) and [The Star](#)

Nigeria

13 March 2019: In Gamboru, north-eastern Borno state, an IED explosion killed two children outside their school. One of them reportedly picked up the device and struck it against a metal object when it exploded. Two other pupils injured in the blast are being treated. **Source:** [UN-OCHA](#)

Sudan

07 March 2019: In Khartoum city and state, police officers violently reacted to a National University students' protest by firing tear gas before beating and detaining students. There is no information about the detained students' whereabouts. **Sources:** [Dabanga Sudan](#) and [Twitter](#)

Asia

Afghanistan

13 March 2019: In Marja district, security forces killed the director of education for the district and his brother when leaving a meeting in which the Taliban were said to be taking part. The government launched an investigation to find out that why they were meeting with the Taliban.

Source: [New York Times](#)

29 March 2019: In Andar district, eastern Ghazni province, four students were killed in an explosion, probably caused by a mortar attack. At least 15 other students and their two teachers were wounded in the incident as the mortar hit their school. The explosion took place while security forces and Taliban fighters exchanged fire during an assault on a police checkpoint.

Sources: [ACLEDD¹](#) and [Al Jazeera](#)

Philippines

3 March 2019: In Compestela Valley, Mindanao, two Lumad students suspected of being members of the New People's Army were allegedly abducted, tortured, and killed by the military.

Source: [GMA News](#)

Sri Lanka

19 March 2019: In Colombo city, Western province, police fired tear gas and water cannons at students during a peaceful protest over cuts to student enrolment in front of the University Grants Commission, in Colombo. There is no information about the number of students injured. **Source:**

[Hiru News](#)

Middle-East and North Africa

Occupied Palestinian Territories

05 March 2019: In al-Quds city, West Bank, IDF soldiers raided the Shufat refugee camp and fired tear-gas canisters at Palestinians, including students and children, leaving dozens of Palestinians suffering from tear-gas inhalation. Israeli forces then closed off the military checkpoint at the camp's entrance preventing passage. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

05 March 2019: In Urif, in the northern occupied West Bank district of Nablus, approximately 50 Israeli Settlers from the Yitzhar settlement attacked a school, injuring one student and damaging three vehicles. The school was forced to dismiss classes. **Sources:** [ACLED](#)¹, [Wafa](#), and [OCHA](#)

10 - 11 March 2019: In Hebron, Israeli settlers harassed international activists accompanying children to Qurdoba school. Israeli police present at the location dispersed the settlers and the activists. **Sources:** [OCHA](#) and [ACLED](#)

13 March 2019: In Hebron, Israeli forces fired tear-gas canisters into an elementary school. The attack left a teacher and dozens of students suffering from tear-gas inhalation. Reports from eye witnesses claim that Israeli jeeps tried to run-over some of the students. **Sources:** [OCHA](#) and [Maan News Agency](#)

19 March 2019: In Shu'fat refugee camp, Jerusalem, the Israeli military demolished a school with bulldozers. Clashes broke out between Israeli forces and Palestinians who attempted to prevent it. **Source:** [ACLED](#)

19 March 2019: Israeli soldiers entered a school and arrested a 10-year-old Palestinian boy. **Source:** [UNICEF](#)

20 March 2019: In Urif, West Bank, Israeli forces clashed with Palestinian students as they attacked a secondary school with tear-gas canisters. Dozens of students suffered from tear-gas inhalation. **Source:** [Wafa](#)

20 March 2019: In al Arroub village, West Bank, Israeli forces fired stun grenades and tear-gas canisters at students of the Palestine Technical College while they were holding a moment of silence for three Palestinians that were killed the previous day. The students subsequently suffered from breathing difficulties due to tear-gas inhalation. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

20 March 2019: In Birzeit, West bank, Israeli forces suppressed a march called for by Bir Zeit University students, resulting in three injured Palestinians. Journalists were hit by tear-gas canisters. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

26 March 2019: In Tuqu village, West Bank, a group of Israeli settlers accompanied by heavily armed Israeli soldiers attempted to break into and raid two Palestinian elementary schools. The attack forced the two schools to dismiss their students early. **Source:** [Maan News](#)

26 March 2019: In Birzeit, West Bank, a group of Israeli operatives disguised as Palestinians abducted three Birzeit University students. **Source:** [Birzeit University](#)

27 March 2019: In Al Bireh, West Bank, Israeli forces suppressed a sit in of students from Bir Zeit University, resulting in 8 injured and scores suffering from tear-gas inhalation. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Syrian Arab Republic

General: In Idlib governorate, a renewed wave of attacks by the Assad regime on schools, hospitals and civilian infrastructures began, leading to the deaths of at least 170 civilians despite a ceasefire deal brokered in September 2018. The region is home to approximately 3 million internally displaced Syrians. **Source:** [Guardian](#)

05 March 2019: In Qal'at al Madiq town, Hama governorate, the Syrian regime artillery fired shells on Akram Ali al Ahmad High School in Qal'at al Madiq town, partially destroying its yard and damaging its building. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

07 March 2019: In Saraqeb city, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime warplanes fired a missile near al Furqan Kindergarten, partially destroying its building and damaging its furniture. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

10 March 2019: In al Tah village, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime forces shelled Najib Arnous Primary School, partially destroying its building and damaging its furniture. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

12 March 2019: In Ma'aret Harma village, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime forces shelled the Primary School for girls, partially destroying its building and fence and damaging its furniture. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

13 March 2019: In al Kasih area, Idlib city, fixed-wing warplanes believed to be Russian fired missiles near Yousef al Azma Primary School, partially destroying its building and damaging its furniture. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

14 March 2019: In Al Bab city in eastern Aleppo countryside, an IED attached to a motorcycle by an unidentified armed group detonated near a school, wounding 2 civilians. No fatalities were reported. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

16 March 2019: In Jisr al Shoghour, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime forces fired missiles on Mamoun Haj Yahya Elementary School, partially damaging its building. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

20 March 2019: In al-Zahra area, Aleppo, a school bus was attacked, killing a child and wounding a teacher. **Source:** [UNICEF](#)

22 March 2019: In Idlib city, an IED planted by an unidentified armed group detonated near al Wahdah school. The bomb, which killed a Libyan fighter, was targeting an Islamist faction. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

26 March 2019: In Sheikh Idriss town, Idlib governorate, Assad regime forces fired rockets at a school, killing a 10-year-old boy and injuring two more children, according to medical workers.

There are no military targets in the school's vicinity. **Sources:** [Guardian](#) and [Amnesty International](#)

29 March 2019: In Tahtaya village, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime forces fired a shell on Tahtaya Primary School, partially damaging its fence. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

The Americas

Nicaragua

01 March 2019: In Managua city and department, students peacefully protesting at the Central American University (UCA) campus were surrounded by police who fired rubber bullets at them, resulting in the injury of a reporter. No further details specified about other casualties. **Source:** [US News](#)

Arrests, detentions and imprisoned

The section aligns with the definition of attacks on education used by the Global Coalition to Protect Education under Attack (GCPEA) in [Education under Attack 2018](#).

Europe

Turkey

27 March 2019: In Istanbul, two professors at the Boğaziçi University were convicted and sentenced by Turkey's 27th Heavy Penal Court to fifteen months in and six months imprisonment on charges of 'propagandizing for a terrorist organization', due to the scholars' endorsement of a petition criticizing military actions in the Kurdish part of the country. **Source:** [bianet](#)

Middle-East and North Africa

Syrian Arab Republic

29 March 2019: In al-Ashrafiyeh neighbourhood, Afrin city, the national police arrested nine teachers and a school principal from two schools in the district and took them to an undisclosed location. The reason for their arrest was unknown. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

29 March 2019: Hayat Tahrir al-Sham forces arrested two staff members of the Free Aleppo University in the town of Atareb. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Education in Danger safety, security and access incidents

Aid in Danger

These events go beyond the definition used by the GCPEA to cover a wider range of events that affect the provision of education including events perpetrated by students, private individuals and criminals as well as significant strike action or protests by students.

Africa

South Sudan

25 March 2019 (DOA): A civilian court charged a South Sudanese academic and activist, along with six other people, with sabotage, insurgency and possession of weapons. The charge is due to the activist's alleged involvement in staging an uprising in South Sudan's main national security

prison in October 2018. If found guilty, he could be sentenced to death. **Source:** [AP](#)

Asia

China

20 March 2019: In Chongqing city and municipality, an associate professor at Chongqing Normal University was demoted and had his teaching credentials revoked in apparent retaliation for comments made during a lecture which CNU officials considered 'injurious to country's reputation'. **Source:** [RFA](#)

25 March 2019: In Beijing city, constitutional law professor at Tsinghua University was suspended and placed under investigation after publishing a series of essays critical of China's ruling Communist Party. He was reported to have received warning phone calls and to have been interrogated by university officials prior to his suspension. **Source:** [RFA](#)

Indonesia

7 March 2019: In Jakarta city, Java island, a State University of Jakarta (UNJ) Sociology professor, human rights activist and Amnesty International Indonesia board member was arrested a day after a video surfaced online in which he sang a song critical of the government and military. He was briefly released but will be formally charged for allegedly 'insulting the military'. **Sources:** [Guardian](#) and [VOA](#)

Malaysia

22 March 2019: In Kuala Lumpur city, supporters of former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak reportedly attacked students peacefully protesting Razak's appearance near University of Malaysia campus. At least one UM student, the protest's chief organizer and journalists covering the protest were assaulted. **Sources:** [Malay Mail I](#) and [Malay Mail II](#)

Pakistan

20 March 2019: In Bahawalpur city, Punjab state, a student stabbed an English professor at the Government Sadiq Egerton College in retaliation to a mixed-gender event on campus organized by the professor. The victim was hospitalized but died on the same day. The student was arrested. **Source:** [Dawn](#)

26 March 2019: In Quetta, Balochistan, unidentified armed men shot dead the Balochistan University examinations superintendent near Dukani Baba bridge. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Sri Lanka

13 March 2019: In Colombo city, Western province, Sri Lankan authorities reportedly used violent force against a group of university students in an apparent attempt to prevent them from staging a protest against a proposed anti-terror law outside of the parliament building. Police arrested the chief organizer of the protest, who was later released. **Sources:** [ColomboPage](#) and [NewsFirst](#)

Europe

Italy

21 March 2019: In Crema city and commune, Cremona region, Lombardy province, an Italian-

Senegalese man seeking to draw attention to migrant deaths in the Mediterranean Sea hijacked a bus carrying 51 pupils and teachers, with the intention of killing them all. As the police managed to intercept the vehicle, the perpetrator set it alight, causing 14 cases of smoke inhalation.

Sources: [BBC](#) and [The Local](#)

Middle-East and North Africa

Saudi Arabia

28 March 2019: In Riyadh city, a law professor at King Saud University was arrested by authorities shortly after denouncing the detention of women's rights and human rights activists in the country. **Source:** [Middle East Eye](#)

The Americas

Brazil

13 March 2019: In Suzano municipality, São Paulo state, Southeast region, two former students armed with a gun, axes and crossbows stormed the Raul Brasil Elementary School with the intention of emulating the 1999 Columbine High School attack, killing five students, a teacher and a school administrator, whilst injuring nine others. **Sources:** [AP](#) and [BBC](#)

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¹ Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) [database attribution policy](#)