Africa

Burkina Faso

Throughout April 2019: Across Burkina Faso, extremist militants burned schools and dragged teachers out of schools into the road to perform executions, leaving schools understaffed and depriving between 119,000 and 150,000 children from education, as well as preventing about 5,000 teachers in the region from safely fulfilling their duties. Sources: The New Humanitarian and VOA

15 April 2019: In Pissila town, Sanmatenga province, militants presumed to be associated with JNIM attacked the town and opened fire with live ammunition on a school, chasing away the students in the process. Source: ACLED

26 April 2019: In Maitaou gou village, Koulpelogo province, an unspecified armed militant group attacked an unnamed school as part of a wider assault on the village, killing five teachers and one municipal worker. Sources: ACLED, New Straits Time, UN-OCHA and TRT World

28 April 2019: In Noaka village, Sanmatenga province, presumed JNIM militants attacked the village, assaulting villagers, burning a bar and four vehicles, and ransacking a school. Source: ACLED

Cameroon

12 April 2019: In Fongo-Tongo town and commune, Menoua department, a group of six secondary school children, five boys and one girl, were abducted by an unidentified armed group. The kidnappers reportedly requested money from the children’s parents but ceased contact after realizing the parents could not pay. Sources: ACLED and Cameroon Online

23 April 2019: In Bamenda town, Mezam department, four armed Ambazonian separatists broke into Saint Frederick High School and abducted a civilian at gunpoint. Source: ACLED

 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.

It is prepared by Insecurity Insight from information available in open sources.

The Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA) provided technical guidance on definitions of attacks on education.

Data from the Education in Danger Monthly News Brief is available on HDX Insecurity Insight.

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Middle East and North Africa

Algeria
17 April 2019: In Algiers, amidst widespread protests against the Algerian regime, police officers reportedly raided the University of Algiers’ Faculty of Law, where a meeting was being held by students to discuss the ongoing protests. The officers allegedly confiscated a number of documents from the students, including a list of the meeting’s attendees, and unsuccessfulessly attempted to detain one of the students. Sources: Algerie 360 (I), Algerie 360 (II), El Watan, Huffpost Maghreb (I), Huffpost Maghreb (II)

Libya
11 April 2019 (DOA): In Tripoli, as ICRC officials distributed rations in an unnamed school, staff were reportedly in a vulnerable position with nearby gunfire audible between Khalifa Haftar’s forces and Government of National Accord troops. Source: Reuters
13 April 2019: In Tripoli, an airstrike attributed to Khalifa Haftar’s forces hit an unnamed school under unspecified circumstances. Source: Reuters
14 April 2019: In Tripoli, two missiles of unspecified origin hit an Education Ministry warehouse under unspecified circumstances, destroying millions of schoolbooks and exam results. Source: Reuters

Occupied Palestinian Territories
02 April 2019: In Hebron city, West Bank, Israeli military forces fired live ammunition, rubber-coated bullets, sonic booms and teargas canisters at the Hebron Elementary School, leaving dozens of students and teachers suffocating and widespread panic throughout the school. Sources: ACLED¹ and Petra
07 April 2019: In Hebron city, West Bank, Israeli military forces fired volleys of tear gas canisters into the yard of an unnamed elementary school during morning assembly, leaving dozens of students and teachers with suffocation issues. Source: ACLED¹ and Petra
09 April 2019: In Hebron city, West Bank, Israeli military forces attacked four schools - Hebron Elementary School, Tariq ibn Ziyad School, Hajeryeh School, and Khadija Bint Khwailad Elementary School - with tear gas canisters and stun grenades. Source: ACLED¹
14 April 2019: In Urif village, West Bank, Israeli military forces attacked the Urif Secondary School by firing teargas canisters towards students, leaving dozens with suffocation issues. Sources: ACLED¹, Palestine Chronicle and Ma’an
14 April 2019: In Hebron city, West Bank, Israeli military forces physically assaulted Palestinian school children who were on their way to school, before firing tear gas at parents who were attempting to protect the students. The incident occurred near the Tariq bin Zayed School, which Israeli military forces subsequently fired tear gas and sound grenades into, leaving students and staff with inhalation issues. Source: ACLED¹
15 April 2019: In Hebron city, Israeli military forces reportedly fired tear gas at Palestinian children on their way to five different schools, including Hebron Boys Elementary School, Khadija Bint Khuwaylid’s Girls Elementary School, Thou Nourain Boys School, al-Hajiriya Girls School, and Tareq Bin Zayed Boys School. The Israeli soldiers then fired tear gas and sound grenades inside and in the vicinity of these same schools. This event is one of an ongoing series of Israeli military assaults on schools and schoolchildren in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Source: ACLED¹
18 April 2019: In Khirbat al-Dayr neighbourhood, Tuqu town, West Bank, a female Palestinian teacher was run over and killed by an Israeli settler who fled the scene afterwards. Source: ACLED

21 April 2019: In Hebron city, Israeli military forces fired tear gas canisters at the Hebron Elementary School, leaving scores of Palestinian students and teachers with respiratory issues. Source: ACLED

Syrian Arab Republic
08 April 2019: In Jisr ash-Shugur city and district, Idlib governorate, Russian cruise missiles struck an unnamed school with the damage forcing the suspension of classes. Russian and Syrian regime forces are reportedly undergoing an assault on the Idlib region to attack rebel forces. Previous assaults by the Russian and Syrian regime forces have led to broad patterns of attacks on healthcare and education facilities across rebel areas. Source: The New Arab

30 April 2019: In Al Qassabiya village, Idlib governorate, Russian warplanes reportedly fired missiles on al Qassabiya Primary School during school hours, partially destroying its building and severely damaging its furniture. Sources: UN-OCHA and SNHR

Yemen
07 April 2019: In Sana’a, in the midst of an attack on a residential neighbourhood, a blast from suspected Saudi-led coalition air raids near Al Raeel School shattered windows and unleashed a burst of shrapnel and broken glass into classrooms, killing 14 children and critically wounding 16. This assault is seen as likely to discourage parents from sending their children to school. Sources: NRC, Save the Children, The New Arab, The New Humanitarian, UN News, UNICEF and VOA

16 April 2019: In Tuhayta district, Hodeidah governorate, pro-Houthi forces reportedly shelled Al-Khansah preparatory school for girls in Tuhayta district with no report of fatalities nor injuries. The school building was reportedly damaged. Source: ACLED

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.

Africa
Sudan
03 April 2019: In Dongola, Northern State, Sudanese police allegedly stormed the University of Dongola and detained five student protesters. The students were reportedly striking and demonstrating against the dire state of education at the university. Sources: Dabanga, and All Africa.

09 April 2019: In Al-Fula town, West Kordofan state, students of the El Salam University held an anti-government demonstration which resulted in state security forces intervening and arresting 15 of them. The victims were detained in al-Fula Prison and released on the same day, after being forced to write a pledge not to continue their protest. Source: Dabanga Sudan

10 April 2019: In Dongola city, Northern state, state security forces arrested 23 students from Bakri El Roomi campus at Dongola University after the students refused the decision taken by the institution to resume classes. Source: Dabanga Sudan

Zambia
02-3 April 2019: In Kitwe city and district, violent clashes broke out between police and demonstrating students protesting the decision by Copperbelt University officials to barr several students from taking exams, leading to the arrest of six students. The Zambian minister responsible for education subsequently
announced the indefinite closure of the university. **Sources:** [ZNBC (I)], [ZNBC (II)], and [Lusaka Times].

**Asia**

**China**  
01 April 2019: In Lanzhou, Gansu province, authorities allegedly detained a Northwest Minzu University graduate student in response to a widely circulated essay he wrote for a civil service exam. In the essay, the student described the decline in government career opportunities for Tibetans in the Tibetan regions of China. Following his detention, officials began questioning the student’s friends and classmates, and the essay was suppressed from the internet. **Sources:** [Radio Free Asia], and [Contact Magazine]

**Europe**

**Turkey**  
01 April 2019: An academic was sentenced to fifteen months imprisonment by a Turkish Heavy Penal Court on charges related to terrorism in retaliation for her endorsement of a petition criticizing Turkey’s military and state actions in the Kurdish parts of southeast Turkey. **Sources:** [Bianet], [TIHV-HRFT] and [T24]

04 April 2019: A former research assistant at Ankara University was convicted and sentenced to prison on terrorism-related charges in retaliation for the scholar’s endorsement of a petition criticizing state and military actions in southeast Turkey. **Sources:** [Bianet], and [Political Critique]

05 April 2019: Five academic personnel were reportedly convicted and sentenced to fifteen months imprisonment on terrorism-related charges due to their endorsement of a petition criticizing state and military actions in the Kurdish south-eastern parts of Turkey. **Sources:** [Ahval] and [Bianet]

30 April 2019: In Istanbul, Turkish courts convicted and issued prison sentences to two academics on terrorism-related charges in retaliation for their endorsement of a petition criticizing state and military actions in predominantly Kurdish areas of southeast Turkey. **Sources:** [Bianet] and [TIHV-HRFT]

**Middle East and North Africa**

**Algeria**  
09 April 2019: In Algiers, police reportedly fired tear gas canisters at a group of students attempting to return to the University of Algiers’ main campus, and multiple media reports indicate that an unknown number of students were arrested. All but one of the students allegedly arrested during the demonstration were released later in the day. **Sources:** [Al Jazeera], [France 24], [El Watan], and [TSA Algerie]

**Occupied Palestinian Territories**  
07 April 2019: In Nablus, West Bank, Palestinian Authority plainclothes police allegedly abducted and imprisoned a male student at An-Najah National University. While the reason behind the arrest has not been revealed, it may be connected with his association with an Islamic student bloc. **Source:** [Middle East Monitor]

**Syrian Arab Republic**  
06 April 2019: In Aleppo city and governorate, a university student of the Faculty of Arts at Aleppo University who had been studying sociology was reported dead. He had been arrested by Syrian regime forces in February 2012 while passing through a regime checkpoint and was likely tortured to death in Sydnaya Military Prison in Damascus in April 2014, which is when the civil register reports his death to have occurred. His death adds to a growing list of students arbitrarily detained and tortured by the Syrian regime. **Source:** [SNHR]
09 April 2019: In Hama city and governorate, a college student of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at Hama University was reported dead. He had been arrested by Syrian regime forces in July 2018, following a raid on his home. Reports suggest it is probable that he died due to being tortured at Sydnaya Military Prison in Damascus. **Source: SNHR**

**The Americas**

**Cuba**
08 April 2019: In Havana, police allegedly used violent force against Congolese students protesting the alleged failure of Congolese and Cuban authorities to disburse medical school scholarships. Police reportedly arrested five students during the protest. **Sources: BBC, 14y Medio, Cuban Exile Quarter, and Juventud Rebelde**

**Africa**

**Gabon**
08 April 2019: In Libreville and other unnamed towns, thousands of high school students protested over government plans to cut university grants, prompting the Gabonese Government to launch a nationwide suspension of classes. **Source: Mail Online**

**Kenya**
25 April 2019: In Ndhiwa settlement, Nyanza province, a secondary school student was beaten and seriously injured by two police when he intervened in the arrest of his classmate. No further details specified. **Source: ACLED**

**Nigeria**
06 April 2019 (DOA): In Lagos city and state, a doctor was stabbed and killed in a random attack a day after he had graduated from the University of Lagos. **Source: PM News**

**South Sudan**
16 April 2019 (DOA): The South Sudanese Government announced that public universities across South Sudan shall soon reopen after a dispute in March 2019 over new fees structure led to their suspension. **Source: Radio Tamazuj**

**Asia**

**Bangladesh**
06 April 2019: In Feni village and district, Chittagong division, the principal of an unnamed religious school ordered the execution of one of his students for publicly accusing him of sexual assault on 27 March 2019. On his orders a group of students lured the victim to the rooftop of the school and asked her to withdraw the complaint. Upon her refusal, they doused her in kerosene and set her alight. The victim died in hospital on 10 April 2019. **Sources: Al Jazeera, BBC, CBS News, Independent and The Telegraph**

**China**
01 April 2019: In Beijing, a human rights lawyer was blocked for ‘national security’ reasons by Chinese authorities from travelling to the United States to study law and human rights as part of an academic fellowship programme. Prior to this incident, he had been briefly detained by authorities after he revealed
China’s use of torture to extract confessions from another human rights lawyer he was representing. **Source:** Radio Free Asia and South China Morning Post

**18 April 2019:** Police reportedly detained a former associate professor and human rights activist in apparent retaliation for his social media expression. The victim had been released five months earlier from imprisonment for “subversion of state power” related to his pro-democracy activism. **Source:** Radio Free Asia

**Myanmar**

**01 April 2019:** In Rakhine state, continued fighting between the Myanmar Army and forces of the Arakan Army have prevented at least 950,000 people from accessing education, healthcare and clean water. **Source:** ACTED

**Pakistan**

**22 April 2019:** In an unnamed location, near Peshawar city, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, a mob ransacked and set fire to an unnamed health clinic amid a wider panic over a supposedly tainted batch of polio vaccinations, forcing doctors and nurses to take refuge in a local public school whose principal prevented the angry crowd from getting inside. **Sources:** CBC, France 24 and The Telegraph

**Middle East and North Africa**

**Algeria**

**15 April 2019:** In Blida city, in a context of widespread protests, officials at the local University of Blida reportedly blocked a prominent public intellectual and human rights defender from entering campus to speak at a conference on political developments in Algeria. **Sources:** Algerie Patriotique, ObservAlgerie, Huffpost Maghreb, Liberte Algerie, Algerie Echo

**Saudi Arabia**

**23 April 2019:** Authorities executed a male Saudi citizen who had been admitted to study at an American university prior to his arrest in 2012 for participating in Arab Spring-related protests. The victim was reportedly tortured and forced to make false confessions, following which he was sentenced to death. **Sources:** Middle East Eye, and Detroit Free Press, Human Rights Watch, New York Time, Reprieve, Vice

**The Americas**

**Colombia**

**03 April 2019:** In Cali, Valle del Cauca department, a former student reportedly detonated some explosives by accident during a demonstration taking place in the streets and on campus against a bombing that occurred in the previous month. The student died as a result of the incident, while six others, of whom at least three were current or former students, were injured. In reaction, university activities were temporarily suspended, and three individuals, including one student, face terrorism charges in connection to the event. **Sources:** Canal 1, Semana, El Tiempo Latino, and El Pais

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1 Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) [database attribution policy](https://www.state.gov/j/ct/hq/offices/dca2/acled)