

Education in Danger

Monthly News Brief

December
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 compiles reported incidents of threatened or actual violence affecting education.

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

The listed reports have not been independently verified and do not represent the totality of events that affected the provision of education over the reporting period.

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

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Africa

Burkina Faso

10 December 2019: In Bonou village, Sourou province, suspected Katiba Macina (JNIM) militants allegedly attacked a lower secondary school, assaulted a guard and ransacked the office of the college director. **Source:** [AIB](#) and [Infowakat](#)

11 December 2019: Tangaye village, Yatenga province, unidentified gunmen allegedly entered an unnamed high school and destroyed equipment. The local town hall was also destroyed in the attack. **Source:** [Infowakat](#)

Cameroon

08 December 2019: In Bamenda city, Mezam department, Nord-Ouest region, unidentified armed actors allegedly abducted around ten students while en route to their campus. On 10 December, the perpetrators released a video stating the students would be freed but that it was a final warning to those who continue to attend school. **Source:** [237actu](#) and [Journal Du Cameroun](#)

Mali

05 December 2019: Near Ansongo town, Gao region, unidentified gunmen reportedly the director of the teaching academy in Gao was shot and wounded by unidentified gunmen while he was travelling aboard a vehicle. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹ and [MaliJet](#)

Asia

India

08 – 09 December 2019: In New Delhi, non-student demonstrators entered the Jamia Millia Islamia University to protest the Citizenship Amendment Bill, a new controversial law that affords citizenship to non-Muslim illegal immigrants in India. In response, police stormed the university library and fired teargas at students crouched under desks. They also beat up staff and students and forced them to leave the campus. Subsequently, hundreds of students took part in a peaceful sit-in inside the institution. **Sources:** [AP](#) and [France 24](#)

09 December 2019: In New Delhi, police reportedly used violent force against hundreds of Jawaharlal Nehru University students peacefully

marching over a recent residence hall fee hike. **Sources:** [The Telegraph India](#), [The Hindustan Times](#), [Catch News](#), [India Finance News](#), [The Kashmir Times](#) and [New Kerala](#)

13 December 2019: In New Delhi, Indian authorities reportedly beat and fired tear gas at Jamia Millia Islamia University students protesting the Citizenship Amendment Bill. **Sources:** [The Etemaad Urdu Daily News](#), [CNN-News18](#), [Devdiscourse](#), [BBC News](#), [Al Jazeera](#), [UC News](#) and [Chester Standard](#)

15 December 2019: In New Delhi, police reportedly used violent force against Jamia Millia Islamia University students protesting against the Citizenship Amendment Bill. At least fifty students were apparently detained in a campus raid that followed the protest. **Sources:** [Al Jazeera I](#), [Al Jazeera II](#), [Al Jazeera III](#), [India Today](#), [India Today](#), [The Telegraph India](#), [The Hindu](#), [NDTV](#), [NDTV](#), [The Hindustan Times](#) and [BBC News](#)

16 December 2019: In Ahmedabad, Gujarat state, Indian authorities reportedly arrested at least fifty faculty members, university students, and activists outside the Indian Institute of Management, during a demonstration against recent police crackdowns on Indian university campuses. **Sources:** [The Hindu](#), [The National Herald India](#), [Devdiscourse](#) and [Twitter](#)

Pakistan

02 December 2019: In Mardan city and district, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province, a lecturer at Abdul Wali Khan University was detained by Pakistani authorities for allegedly expressing his support for an ongoing student protest movement over social media. **Sources:** [The News Pakistan](#), [Naya Daur](#), [Global Voices](#), [Shiite News Network](#), [Twitter](#) and [Reuters](#)

29 December 2019: In Lahore city, Punjab province, police announced that they charged between 250 and 300 students and activists with treason for making insulting remarks against its military at a protest demanding the lifting of a ban on political activity at universities. **Source:** [ABC](#)

Middle East and North Africa

Syrian Arab Republic

01 December 2019: In Farwan village, Ma'aret al Numan district, Idlib governorate, Farwan Primary School was partially destroyed by a missile fired by Syrian regime warplanes. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

01 December 2019: In Barsa village, Ma'aret al Numan district, Idlib governorate, al Barsa Primary School was partially destroyed by a missile fired by Syrian regime warplanes. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

03 December 2019: In Kafr Nabl town, Ma'aret al Numan district, Idlib governorate, Aziziya School was partially damaged by bombs dropped by Syrian regime forces helicopters in the area. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

03 December 2019: In Urm al Jouz town, Idlib governorate, an unnamed secondary school was partially damaged during bombing by Syrian regime forces helicopters in the area. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

04 December 2019: In Bazbour village, Ariha district, Idlib governorate, Bazabour Boys School was partially destroyed, and a girl killed during bombing by Syrian regime forces helicopters in the area. **Sources:** [SNHR](#) and [Airwars](#)

04 December 2019: In Bdama town, Jisr al-Shughur district, Idlib governorate, Bdama Primary School was partially destroyed by artillery shells fired by Syrian regime forces in the area. The report claimed that armed forces targeted the building. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

04 December 2019: In al-Balaysa village, Idlib governorate, an unnamed school was partially destroyed during a Russian airstrike in the area. **Source:** [Airwars](#)

07 December 2019: In al Bara village, Ariha district, Idlib governorate, Najib al Duqus Primary School and a girls' high school, were partially destroyed by bombs dropped by Syrian and Russian regime warplanes in the area. **Sources:** [SNHR](#) and [Airwars](#)

07 December 2019: In al Ma'ar Zita village, Ma'aret al Numan district, Idlib governorate, Ma'ar Zita Secondary School was partially destroyed by bombs dropped by Syrian regime warplanes in the area. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

07 December 2019: In Kafr Nabl town, Ma'aret al Numan district, Idlib governorate, Aziziya School was partially destroyed by bombs dropped by Syrian regime warplanes in the area. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

07 December 2019: In Balyoun village, Ariha district, Idlib governorate, Ahmad Astila School and Balyoun High School were damaged by missiles fired by Russian regime warplanes in the area. Both schools were located near each other and in the central market area. The attack allegedly resulted in many casualties. **Sources:** [SNHR](#) and [Airwars](#)

08 December 2019: In al Ghassaniya village, Jisr al-Shughur district, Idlib governorate, a fence belonging to al Ghassaniya Primary School was damaged by shells fired by Syrian regime forces in the area. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

10 December 2019: In Hambushia village, Idlib governorate, al Hambushia Primary School was severely damaged by artillery shells fired on the building by Syrian regime forces. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

13 December 2019: In Bdama town, Jisr al-Shughur district, Idlib governorate, Bdama Primary School was damaged by shells fired on the building by Syrian regime forces. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

16 December 2019: In Hayyan town, Mount Simeon District, Aleppo governorate, Martyr Yaser Da'boul School was severely damaged by shells fired on the building by Syrian regime forces. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

16 December 2019: In Abu Defna village, Idlib governorate, Martyr Mustafa al Qasem School was partially destroyed in an airstrike by Syrian regime warplanes. **Sources:** [SNHR](#) and [Airwars](#)

16 December 2019: In Ma'ar Shoreen village, Ma'aret al Numan district, Idlib governorate, Ma'ar Shoreen School was partially destroyed by a barrel bomb dropped on the building by Syrian regime helicopters. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

19 December 2019: In Ma'aret al Numan city and district, Idlib governorate, Hasan Kamel Primary School was damaged by shells fired on the building by Syrian regime forces. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

22 December 2019: In Ma'aret al Numan city and district, Idlib governorate, al Ekayyed and al Mahloul Schools, were damaged during bombing by Syrian-Russian alliance forces. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

24 December 2019: In Joubas village, Idlib district and governorate, suspected Russian warplanes fired missiles on a school building used to shelter IDPs, damaging the building. Five children and two adults were killed, and seven others wounded, including two children and two women. **Source:** [Rappler](#), [SNHR](#), [SNHR II](#) and [Airwars](#)

Yemen

10 December 2019: In Saada city and governorate, artillery shells from an unspecified source hit an unnamed school. **Source:** [CIMP](#)

14 December 2019: In Harib Al Qaramish district, Marib governorate, artillery shells from an unspecified source hit an unnamed school. **Source:** [CIMP](#)

Education in Danger safety, security and access incidents

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.

Aid in Danger

Africa

Burkina Faso

06 December 2019: In Kaya, Sanmatenga province, security forces reportedly killed a private school teacher who was suspected of being a militant. **Source:** [Minutebf](#)

Ethiopia

08 December 2019: In East Wellega zone, Oromia region, a student was beaten by unidentified individuals at Gondor University. The student was hospitalised and later died. **Source:** [Addis Standard FB](#)

08 December 2019: In Weldiya town, North Wollo zone, Amhara region, a student was beaten by campus security at Woldia University. The student was hospitalised and later died. **Source:** [Addis Standard FB](#)

14 December 2019: In Shambu Wollega town, Horo Gudru Welega zone, Oromiya region, a student was killed and two others injured when they were attacked by unidentified men as they walked from university campus to the church. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Kenya

06 December 2019: Between Kotulo and Waragud, Tarbaj settlement, Wajir county, two teachers, a doctor (all Christian), along with eight policemen, were reportedly killed after the bus they were travelling in was intercepted by Al-Shabaab militia, who separated out those who were not local ethnic Somalia Muslims and executed them. The militants fled to neighbouring Somalia as Kenyan forces deployed to the area, while the bus driver and a passenger were arrested. Al Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack. **Sources:** [The Morning Star News](#)

Asia

China

02 – 04 December 2019: In Hung Hom neighbourhood, Kowloon district, Hong Kong, police reportedly re-entered the campus of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Chemicals and petrol bombs allegedly hoarded by anti-government protesters were found. **Source:** [Channel News Asia](#)

India

09 December 2019: In Birchandrapur, Khowai district, Tripura state, teachers from Birchandrapur SB School were attacked by a group of motorcycle-borne political activists at the school premises leaving at least ten teachers injured. **Source:** [Tripura Infoway](#)

15 December 2019: In Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh state, police reportedly entered Aligarh Muslim University and beat and fired tear gas and rubber bullets at students protesting the Citizenship Amendment Bill.

Sources: [The Hindu I](#), [The Hindu II](#), [The Indian Express](#), [Al Jazeera](#), [NDTV](#), [The Telegraph India](#) and [The Wire](#)

Pakistan

12 December 2019: In Islamabad, violent clashes between students erupted during an event on campus at the International Islamic University Islamabad, resulting in one death, at least 16 injured, and 16 arrests.

Sources: [Associated Press News](#), [Dawn News I](#), [Dawn News II](#), [Dawn News III](#), [Gulf News](#), [Dunya News](#), [Urdu Point](#) and [International Islamic University](#)

Europe

France

05 December 2019: In Montpellier, a group of unidentified individuals reportedly attacked students preparing to protest against Macron's plans for pension reform on the University Paul-Valéry Montpellier III campus, injuring two of them.

Sources: [Yahoo News](#), [Le Parisien](#), [Midi Libre](#), [France Bleu](#), [Université Paul Valéry Montpellier III](#), [La Chaîne Info](#) and [Syndicat de Combat Universitaire de Montpellier](#)

Middle East and North Africa

Iraq

Around 07 December 2019: In Mosul Old city, Mosul, Nineveh governorate, a high school student was kidnapped by unidentified armed men. Source: [ACLED](#)¹

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The incidents reported are not a complete nor a representative list of all events that affected the provision of education and have not been independently verified. All decisions made, on the basis of, or with consideration to, such information remains the responsibility of their respective organisations.



¹ Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) [database attribution policy](#). Accessed 5 January 2020.