

# Education in Danger

Monthly News Brief

## Threats and Violence Against Schools and Teachers

This section covers events affecting schools and teachers.

May  
2020

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.

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

Access [data](#) on teachers killed, kidnapped and arrested (KKA) and schools damaged and destroyed (DD) on HDX Insecurity Insight.

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### COMING SOON!

The Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA) 2020 report is out soon!

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### Africa

#### Angola

**25 May 2020:** In Dangereux district, Talatona municipality, Luanda, the General Secretary of the National Union of Angolan Teachers and a man who was with him were shot dead by three police officers. **Source:** [Correio Kianda](#)

#### Democratic Republic of the Congo

**08 May 2020:** In Goma city, North Kivu province, around twenty teachers were detained by police officials during demonstrations over unpaid wages. \* **Source:** [Actualité](#)

#### Nigeria

**28 May 2020:** In Miango District, Bassa LGA, Plateau state, a teacher and four civilians were killed by unidentified gunmen in an attack on a fast-food restaurant in the Nzharuvo community. **Sources:** [Nigeria Punch](#), [The Guardian](#), [This Day Live](#) and [Vanguard Nigeria](#)

#### South Africa

**20 May 2020:** In Tsomo town, Intsika Yethu municipality, Chris Hani district, Eastern Cape province, three teenagers stole five computers and 15 tablets from an unnamed school. Police arrested the burglars and recovered the stolen items on the same day. **Source:** [News 24](#)

**22 May 2020:** In Makapanstad village, Moretele municipality, Bojanala Platinum district, North West province, three teenagers attempted to break into and burgle the North West High School. Two of the intruders managed to flee the scene, but one was caught by members of the community and handed over to the police. **Source:** [News 24](#)

**Around 22 May 2020:** In Thohoyandou town, Thulamela municipality, Vhembe district, Limpopo province, police arrested two men suspected to have stolen five laptops and two Wi-Fi routers from the Tshishonga Primary School and the Mphaphuli Secondary School. In a separate case, another two suspects were denied bail after appearing in court for possession of computers and laptops that are also believed to have been stolen from Tshishonga Primary School. **Source:** [News 24](#)

#### Zimbabwe

**16 May 2020:** In Domboshava village, Goromonzi district, Mashonaland East province, a teacher and national secretary for Gender and Welfare of Amalgamated Rural Teachers Union of Zimbabwe was assaulted by six men in uniform believed to be military officials who accused the teacher of inciting violence by posting a video in solidarity for three women from MDC Alliance officials kidnapped and sexually assaulted. **Source:** [All Africa](#)

## Asia

### *Afghanistan*

**17 May 2020:** In Kabul city, a private school owner was shot dead by unknown gunmen.\* **Source:** [Source: ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

### *The Philippines*

**26 May 2020:** In Barangay Apopong, General Santos, South Cotabato province, a Mindanao State University professor was shot dead and his wife injured inside their car by unidentified gunmen on a motorcycle. **Sources:** [Philippine Daily Inquirer](#), [Newsline](#) and [Minda News](#)

## Middle East and North Africa

### *Occupied Palestinian Territories*

**30 May 2020:** In Wadi al-Joz neighbourhood, East Jerusalem, Israeli police chased and gunned down a disabled Palestinian man while he walked to the special needs school where he worked. The police claim they saw him carrying a suspicious object and ordered him to stop, but he refused, fled the scene, and was shot twice in the chest. The victim was unarmed. Investigations are ongoing.\* **Sources:** [BBC](#), [The Guardian](#), [CNN](#), [Haaretz](#), [Jewish News](#), [Times of Israel](#) and [The Telegraph](#)

### *Yemen*

**06 May 2020:** In Sabir al Mawadim, Taizz province, a civilian car was fired at by members of the pro-Hadi Special Security forces at Al Birayn checkpoint, killing the director of the Tariq bin Ziyad School. According to reports, the Security Director of Jabal Habashy had ordered the arrest. Five other passengers were injured and arrested afterwards. **Source:** [ACLED](#)

**12 May 2020:** In Midi district, Hajjah governorate, an unnamed school was hit by airstrikes.\* **Source:** [CIMP](#)

**17 May 2020:** In al Hawak, al Hudaydah province, a professor of media studies at al Hudaydah University was kidnapped by Houthi forces after he posted comments critical of the abduction of students at the university.\* **Source:** [ACLED](#)

## The Americas

### *Ecuador*

**22 May 2020:** In Esmeraldas neighbourhood, Quito, members of the Ecuadorian National Teachers' Network union rallied at the Parque Infantil to protest against a recent decision by the Ministry of Education to reduce one hour to the working day. **Source:** [Garda](#)

### *Honduras*

**15 May 2020:** In Colonia 2 de Marzo, El Progreso city, Yoro department, a teacher at Instituto San José del Progreso was shot dead by several armed men during a home invasion. **Source:** [Proceso Digital](#)

### *Mexico*

**12 May 2020:** In Salina Cruz, Oaxaca state, a teacher and member of the CNTE was killed by unknown perpetrators. **Sources:** [Aristequi Noticias](#), [Milenio](#) and [Imparcial Oaxaca](#)

## Threats and Violence Against Students

This section covers events affecting students and school children.

## Asia

### *Bangladesh*

**12 May 2020:** In Pabna town and district, Rajshahi division, unidentified perpetrators stabbed a student of the Pabna Technical School and College, severely wounding him. The victim died later in hospital. **Source:** [New Age](#)

## Middle East and North Africa

### *Islamic Republic of Iran*

**01 May 2020:** In Tehran, a male University of Tehran civil engineering student was reportedly sentenced to six years imprisonment and 74 lashes for allegedly participating in a protest on campus over the Iranian government's role in the downing of a Ukrainian airliner in January 2020. The charges reportedly consisted of "disturbing public order" and "colluding against national security". \* **Sources:** [Akhbar-Rooz](#), [Alarabiya](#), [HRA News](#), [Human Rights Watch](#), [VOA News](#), [Twitter I](#), [Twitter II](#) and [Twitter III](#)

### *Israel*

**18 May 2020:** In Ra'anana city, Central district, authorities of an unnamed school refused entry to a group of female students for the reason that they were wearing shorts - having their legs exposed - amid an extreme heatwave. **Source:** [France 24](#)

**18 May 2020:** In Petah Tikva town, Central district, a teacher at an unnamed school forced a seven-year-old schoolgirl to wear a t-shirt instead of her sleeveless dress, but nothing else to cover her lower body. The student was subject to mockery at the hands of her classmates for the rest of the day. **Source:** [France 24](#)

**19 May 2020:** In Gedera town, Central district, 150 female students went to school dressed in shorts to protest the prohibition of girls wearing shorts in school. The students were allowed to enter the school after waiting outside the school gates for three hours. **Source:** [France 24](#)

**19 May 2020:** In Modiin city, Central district, female students went to school dressed in shorts to protest the prohibition of girls wearing shorts in school. The students were repeatedly sent away, whilst male students, also wearing shorts, were allowed into school. **Source:** [France 24](#)

## Notes

**This document is part of the Education in Danger project.** It is published by Insecurity Insight and funded and supported by the Department for International Development (DFID) of the UK government through the RIAH project at the Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute at Manchester University, UK. 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.

Suggested citation: Insecurity Insight. 2020. The Education in Danger Monthly News Brief, June 2020. Switzerland: Insecurity Insight.

Find about more on definitions used by Insecurity Insight and by GCPEA [here](#).

<sup>1</sup> Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) [database attribution policy](#). Accessed 5 June 2020

