

# BURKINA FASO

## Threats and Violence Against Civilians and Vital Civilian Facilities

Bulletin 2: April- October 2020



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### Threats and Violence Against Education

**02 April 2020:** At Kossodo University city, Ouagadougou, Kadiogo province, a confrontation between students and gerdames took place in an apparent escalation of animosities that had started two days earlier. The gerdames shot tear gas at the students who responded by throwing stones. The gerdames then shot to the air, dispersing the students. The students who did not manage to flee were beaten.

**29 April 2020:** In Logobou town, Logobou commune, Tapoa province, Est region, the communal General Education College (CEG) was set on fire by suspected JNIM or ISGS militants.

**29 April 2020:** In Logobou town, Logobou commune, Tapoa province, Est region, the guard of the departmental high school was shot and killed and the school set on fire in an attack suspected by JNIM or ISGS militants.

**07 June 2020:** In Tanwalbougou commune, Fada Ngourma city, Gourma province, Est region, two students from the Fulani community were shot dead by Koglweogo volunteer fighters (VDP).

**18 June 2020:** In the Kabonga area, Kompienga province, Est region, a teacher and a merchant were abducted presumably by JNIM or ISGS militants.

**27 July 2020:** In Tansarga commune, Tapoa province, Est region, gunmen reportedly entered Toptiagou village and stole fuel before burning five primary schools (Katela Primary School, Diamanga Primary School, Kobana Primary School, Kotchari Primary School and Bodiaga Primary School) before fleeing to W Parc (possibly W National Park).

This bulletin is part of a series monitoring insecurity in the Sahel region.

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

It supports organisations with information on violent and threatening incidents affecting aid operations, civilians, education, healthcare, refugees and IDPs in the Sahel region to ensure staff safety and better response outcomes.

Visit our [website](#) for more information on insecurity in the Sahel region.

Links to the original news source are not included due to the high number of incidents. If you require further event information, please, [contact us](#).

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**27 July 2020:** In Tansarga commune, Tapoa province, Est region, gunmen reportedly set another seven schools (Malpoa Primary School – Kombongou Primary School, Pielgou Primary School, Kobdari Primary School, Nangbanli Primary School, Tchontchonga Primary School, Kabougou Primary School and CEG of Kotchari) on fire.

**08 August 2020:** Between Ouagarou and Matiacoali, Matiacoali commune, Gourma province, Est region, five people, including an NGO worker, a school director, a mason, a martial arts practitioner, and a driver were abducted by suspected JNIM militants. All were released the following day.

**06 September 2020:** In Youloupou village, Didyr commune, Sanguie province, Centre-Ouest region, a school director was killed by gunmen.

**15 October 2020:** Between Salmossi and Markoye, Oudalan province, Sahel region, a school director and a farmer were killed, and another person wounded by armed men.

**16 October 2020:** Between Gorom-Gorom commune and Markoye town, Oudalan province, Sahel region, a primary school principal was found dead.

## Threats and Violence Against Aid Operations

**30 May 2020:** Near Barsalogho commune, Sanmatenga province, Centre-Nord region, suspected jihadist militants ambushed a gendarmerie aid convoy after delivering food to IDPs in the area, killing at least 10 people, including an ambulance driver and a nurse, and injuring about 20 more.

**24 June 2020:** Between Gaskinde and Mentao, Pobe-Mengao department, Soum province, Sahel region, an INGO truck loaded with intended for IDPs was ambushed by JNIM militant. The Togolese driver and his apprentice were detained and released, along with the vehicle after supplies were stolen from inside.

**04 August 2020:** In Karmama district, Yagha province, Sahel region, a convoy of 15 UN-contracted trucks transporting food was ambushed by armed men. Some trucks were looted, others were hijacked along with their drivers.

**05 August 2020:** Near Gaskinde commune, Pobe-Mengao department, Soum province, Sahel region, a truck carrying NGO supplies was seized by presumed JNIM militants. The drivers were kidnapped and released on 07 August.

**08 August 2020:** Between Ouagarou and Matiacoali, Matiacoali department, Gourma province, Est region, five people, including an NGO worker, a school director, a mason, a martial arts practitioner, and a driver were abducted by suspected JNIM militants. All were released the following day.

**10 August 2020:** In the Sahel region, an unidentified armed group hijacked a truck carrying food aid en route to Djibo town.

**11 August 2020:** In Soum province, Sahel region, an unidentified armed group hijacked a passenger transport vehicle and abducted the provincial Imam. Other passengers in the same vehicle, including aid workers, were released.

**21 August 2020:** Near Mentao, Pobe-Mengao department, Soum province, Sahel region, presumed JNIM militants reportedly intercepted an MSF vehicle and seized a large amount of medicine.

**15 September 2020:** In Fadji hamlet, Gourma province, Est region, an unspecified number of aid workers were abducted presumably by JNIM militants. All were released after three hours.

## Threats and Violence Against IDPs and Refugees

**07 April 2020:** In Mentao village, Pobe-Mengao commune, Soum province, Sahel region, a Malian refugee of the Tuareg community was reportedly killed by Burkinabe forces.

**20 April 2020:** In Kaya city, Sanmatenga province, Centre-Nord region, a female IDP and her two children were killed by unidentified gunmen.

**28 April 2020:** In Kaya city, Sanmatenga province, Centre-Nord region, IDPs, mostly women and children, organised a demonstration in front of the town hall to show their discontent with the Social Action department food distribution which, according to them, has repeatedly benefited some IDPs while neglecting others.

**02 May 2020:** At the Mentao Refugee Camp, Sahel region, security forces conducted house-to-house searches and forced Malian refugee men and boys out of their homes, beating them with sticks, belts, and ropes, during a search for suspects involved in an attack on soldiers in the area earlier that day. At least 32 refugees were injured, fourteen seriously. The soldiers accused refugees of complicity with armed groups, giving them an ultimatum to leave the camp within the next 72 hours, or be killed.

**30 May 2020:** Near Barsalogho commune, Sanmatenga province, Centre-Nord region, unidentified gunmen ambushed a gendarmerie aid convoy after delivering food to IDPs in the area, killing at least 10 people, including an ambulance driver and a nurse, and injuring about 20 more.

**13 September 2020:** In Demniol village, Gorgadji commune, Seno province, Sahel region, an IDP was tortured and shot by volunteer fighters (VDP) who accused him of cattle thievery.

**15 September 2020:** In Barsalogo commune, Sanmatenga province, Centre-Nord region, a male IDP from the Fulani community was killed by gunmen.

**04 October 2020:** Between Quintokoulga and Kiemna-Yarce, Pissila department, Sanmatenga province, Centre-Nord region, a convoy of 46 IDPs was reportedly intercepted by armed men who identified themselves as jihadists. Unconfirmed reports the perpetrators were JNIM or ISGS militants. 25 IDP men were executed, and one male IDP was injured. The perpetrators released the women and children.

**10 October 2020:** In Markoye town, Oudalan province, Sahel region, three IDPs were killed and one motorbike was seized by presumed ISGS militants during an attack on the town.

## Threats and Violence Against Health Care

**04 April 2020:** Between Koualou and Nadiagou, Kompienga province, Est region, the chief nurse of Koualou was kidnapped by armed men while travelling to a medical evacuation in nearby Pama city.

**25 April 2020:** In Ouagadougou, health workers answering the COVID-19 hotline received several prank calls, which clog their phone lines, as well as regular threatening calls from unidentified perpetrators, who warn that they would come and kill everyone, once they kill the soldiers in the north.

**26 May 2020:** In Magourou village, Garango commune, Boulgou province, Centre-Est region, policemen assaulted a nurse as she was returning home from a late shift during the nightly coronavirus curfew.

**30 May 2020:** Near Barsalogho commune, Sanmatenga province, Centre-Nord region, unidentified gunmen ambushed a gendarmerie aid convoy after delivering food to IDPs in the area, killing at least 10 people,

including an ambulance driver and a nurse, and injuring about 20 more.

**21 August 2020:** Near Mentao, Pobe-Mengao commune Soum province, Sahel region, presumed JNIM militants reportedly intercepted an INGO vehicle and seized a large amount of medicine.

**01 September 2020:** In Kabonga area, Komienga province, Est region, a medical student at the National School of Public Health (ENSP) was kidnapped, by suspected JNIM or ISGS militants in the process of robbing road users.

**18 October 2020:** In Tin-Akoff, Oudalan province, Sahel region. the pharmacy at a health centre was looted and vandalized by suspected ISGS militants who also attempted to abduct a civilian.

### Incidents reported on the [WHO SSA](#)<sup>1</sup> between April and September 2020

As of 02 November 2020, the World Health Organization's (WHO) Surveillance System of Attacks on Healthcare (SSA) documented two incidents for the period 01 April–30 September 2020.

## Violence Against Civilians

- As of 02 November 2020, 187 incidents of violence causing 468 civilian deaths were documented by the [Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project \(ACLED\)](#).
- High numbers of incidents were reported in Sahel (89). Est also reported a high number of incidents (131).
- Named perpetrators of violence against civilians included:
  - Bobo Ethnic Militia
  - Dozo Communal Militia
  - Islamic State Greater Sahara (ISGS)
  - Group for Support of Islam and Muslims (JNIM)
  - Koglweogo Militia
  - Military Forces of Burkina Faso
  - Police Forces of Burkina Faso
  - Volunteer for Defense of Homeland (VDP)

### Example incident

**14 October 2020:** In Demniol village, Gorgadji commune, Seno province, Sahel region, 16 people were killed in an attack by suspected ISGS militants on the village.

## Notes

**This document is published by Insecurity Insight.** The incidents reported are not a complete nor a representative list of all incidents 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. Sahel Monitoring. Violence Against Civilians and Vital Civilian Facilities in Burkina Faso. Bulletin 2. November 2020. Switzerland: Insecurity Insight.

<sup>1</sup> The Surveillance System of Attacks on Healthcare (SSA) is a global standardized and systemic approach to collecting data of attacks on health care. This system utilizes the same methodology across countries to address the knowledge gap of the extent and nature of attacks on health care.