Education in Danger
Monthly News Brief

Threats and Violence Against Schools and Teachers
This section covers events affecting schools and teachers.

This monthly digest compiles reported incidents of threatened or actual violence affecting education.
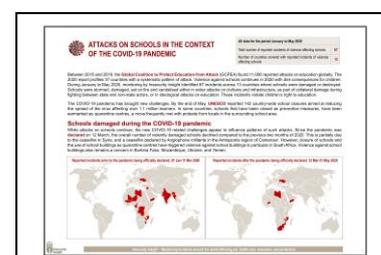
It is prepared by Insecurity Insight from information available in open sources.

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.

Visit our **website** to download previous Briefs. Join our **Education in Danger** mailing

Africa

Burkina Faso
15 or 16 October 2020: Between Gorom-Gorom commune and Markoye town, Oudalan province, a primary school principal was found dead, in a context where educators teaching French are threatened by armed groups.* **Sources: Infowakat and RFI**

Cameroon
Between 28 September and 04 October 2020: In Ndop town, Ngo-Ketunija department, Northwest region, separatist fighters attacked and injured bike riders who had been forced by military personnel to clean up schools ahead of the resumption of classes.* **Source: Mimimefo Infos**

As reported on 11 October 2020: In Northwest and Southwest regions, at least 3,000 teachers rejected offers by the Cameroonian Armed Forces to transport teaching staff from their homes to schools, citing renewed death threats against them and students by separatist fighters. **Source: VOA**

As reported on 17 October 2020: In Logono-et-Chari, Mayo-Sava and Mayo-Tsanaga and Logone departments, Far North region, along the northern Cameroon-Nigeria border, the Cameroonian Government has shut more than 60 schools to protect students and teachers from increasing Boko Haram suicide attacks. Members of the Cameroonian Armed Forces have since been deployed to teach displaced children in safe locations. **Source: VOA**

Around 20 October 2020: In Bamali town, Ngo-ketunjia, Northwest region, five teachers were reportedly kidnapped from a learning centre by Ambazonian separatists.* **Source: ACLED**[1]

24 October 2020: In Kumba city, Southwest region, a group of nine unidentified perpetrators armed with guns and machetes raided the Mother Francisca International Bilingual Academy, killing six to eight pupils aged between nine and 12, and wounding 12 more. Some children were reportedly injured as they jumped from second-storey windows to escape.* **Sources: Al Jazeera, ECHO, France 24, Local News 8 and RFI**

Central African Republic
09 October 2020: In Bangui, a group of students assaulted the president of Examination Centre 8 at the Gobongo High School, after they were caught cheating during an exam. Panic ensued among other students as gendarmes intervened by using their weapons to protect the principal. An unspecified number of students were hospitalised.* **Source: CNC**

18 October 2020: In Kabo town, Ouham prefecture, a teacher was reportedly shot dead by armed men, suspected militiamen controlling the area, allegedly for resisting a robbery attempt. **Source: ACLED**[1]

Attacks on Schools 2020
Since the pandemic was declared, the overall number of violently damaged schools declined. However, violence against school buildings remains a concern in Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Ukraine, and Yemen. **Read more**

Democratic Republic of the Congo

04 October 2020: Near Bule, Djugu town, Ituri province, the director of Lodza school, two children and a driver were ambushed and killed amid a series of attacks carried out by CODECO militiamen in the region. **Source: Radio Okapi**

06 October 2020: In Ndjiapanda village, near Nyabili, Lubero, North Kivu province, a school building was reportedly occupied by rebels of Mayi-Mayi Militiamen of the Congo Ebebi Movement, where they set up their camp after being forced to leave their stronghold due to clashes with other Mayi-Mayi groups.* **Source: ACLED**[1]

14 October 2020: In Kalungu village, Masisi town, North Kivu province, two teachers were reportedly killed by Nyatura "Abazungu" militiamen. **Source: ACLED**[1]

Ethiopia

26 October 2020: In Shashemene town, West Arsi Zone, Oromia region, a university professor was reportedly shot dead by police forces for unknown reasons. **Source: ACLED**[1]

Malawi

28 October 2020: In Machinga district, southern region, the headteacher office at Mpiri primary School, a Catholic school, was burnt down allegedly after he refused to allow Muslim students to attend class while wearing hijabs. **Source: Club of Mozambique**

Nigeria

02 October 2020: In Bokkos town and LGA, Plateau state, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Plateau State University was abducted when unidentified criminals broke into his residence. The victim was released 20 hours later and taken to hospital. **Sources: Daily Post, Punch Nigeria and The Nation Online Nigeria**

06 October 2020: At Akunza Migili, outskirts of Lafia, Lafia LGA, Nasarawa state, the former Nasarawa state Commissioner for Higher Education was at his residence when he was kidnapped by unidentified armed men. The victim was later released after a ransom of an undisclosed amount was paid. **Sources: All Africa and The Guardian Nigeria**

05 October 2020: In Imo state, government-run schools remained shut as teachers complained that they have not been paid for the past seven months. **Source: The Nation**

11 October 2020: In Bauchi metropolis, Bauchi LGA, Bauchi state, the director of the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa university was stabbed and killed by unidentified armed men at his residence. The perpetrators fled with the doctor's vehicle. **Sources: Aljazeera News Nigeria, Daily Post and Daily Trust**

11 October 2020: In Chikun city and LGA, Kaduna state, four students and their teacher at Prince Academy that were kidnapped in Chikun Council last month were released after the payment of a second ransom. **Source: The Guardian Nigeria**

15 October 2020: In Oye Local Government area, Oye state, a security guard with the federal university of Oye-Ekiti (FUOYE) was shot dead by gunmen allegedly over a land dispute. **Source: Independent Nigeria**

20 October 2020: In Lagos city and state, planned city-wide protests against police brutality prompted the state schools commissioner to order the temporary closure of schools, so as to ensure the safety of students, and to encourage schools to undertake distance learning. **Source: GardaWorld**

22 October 2020: At Apata/Iretolu junction, Idepe, Okitipupa town, Ondo state, gunmen abducted the vice principal of Idepe High School at her shop by unidentified gunmen. **Source: Nigerian Cable News Online**

28 October 2020: In Karkasara neighbourhood, Taurani LGA, Kano city and state, a fire of unidentified origin broke out in a bathroom of the Sa'idu Fagge Hostel for girls of the Kano State College of Nursing and Midwifery, destroying 16 rooms on the second floor within one hour, before firefighters extinguished it. **Source: HumAngle**

28 October 2020: On the Enugwu-Agidi-Nawgu road, Dunukofia LGA, Anambra state, a female professor of the Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University was abducted by three men armed with AK-47 rifles. **Sources: National Daily Nigeria, Nigeria Punch and The Nation Online Nigeria**

Asia
Afghanistan
03 October 2020: In the Motor Foroshan area, Puli Alam city, Logar province, three people including a teacher were reportedly attacked and killed by Taliban militants. **Source: ACLED**[1]

05 - 10 October 2020: In Zhari district, Kandahar province, hostilities between Afghan National Security Forces and armed groups caused the destruction of an unnamed primary school.* **Source: OCHA**

21 October 2020: In Hazara Qurluq village, Takhar province, an airstrike by the Afghan Armed Forces reportedly hit a religious school, killing 11 children and the religious school's prayer leader, and injuring 14 others. The military disputed the report, stating that it had killed 12 Taliban fighters in the village. The strike came after more than 30 government troops were killed in a Taliban ambush in Takhar. **Sources: BBC and Garda**

24 October 2020: In Dasht-e-Barchi area, Kabul, an unidentified perpetrator wearing an explosive vest detonated himself near a private higher education centre, which he had tried to enter, killing at least 24 people, most of whom were students waiting to enter the facility, and injuring dozens of others. ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack, adding that their target was a group of Shias.* **Source: BBC**

Pakistan
05 October 2020: In Peshawar city and district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, a professor belonging to the Ahmadiya community was killed by unknown perpetrators allegedly after a religious argument. **Source: Daily Times**

27 October 2020: In Peshawar city and district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, a blast of unidentified origin struck the Jamia Zubairia Islamic Seminary, killing at least eight male students aged between 20 and 40, and wounding 136 more, many of whom were children.* **Sources: BBC and USA Today**

Europe
France
16 October 2020: In Conflans-Sainte-Honorine commune, Yvelines department, Ile-de-France region, a decapitated man was found on the street near an unnamed middle school. The victim was a history teacher who had reportedly shown his students caricatures of Mohammed as part of a class on freedom of expression. **Source: Xinhua Net**

Middle East and North Africa
Occupied Palestinian Territories
07 October 2020: In Ras Al-Tin village, Area C, West Bank, Israeli authorities refused to halt plans to demolish an EU-funded primary school serving 50 students due to a supposed lack of construction permissions. A petition lodged by lawyers, who called on the authorities to allow for more time in obtaining the necessary permit to complete the school's construction, was rejected by an Israeli court.* **Sources: NRC and The New Arab**

Syrian Arab Republic
21 October 2020: In Quneitra city, sub-district, district and governorate, Israeli Defence Forces allegedly attacked a school and a vehicle.* **Sources: SANA and Twitter**

30 October 2020: In Ariha city, Idlib governorate, artillery shells fired by the Syrian military hit Zakariya Saedou School and Tishreen al Awal School, damaging the building.* **Source: SNHR**

Yemen
04 October 2020: In Al Ardi area, Salh district, Ta'izz governorate, artillery shells of unknown origin hit houses in the vicinity of al Thulaia School*: **CIMP**

06 October 2020: In Ar Rabsah district, Al Hudaydah governorate, artillery shells hit the vicinity of al Najah School, killing one civilian and wounding seven others, including children.* **Source: CIMP**

07 October 2020: In Uzlat al Jadajid, Raymah governorate, a teacher was filming the Houthis taking over land in the area when a Houthi commander reportedly shot him dead. **Source: ACLED**[1]

11 October 2020: In Salh district, Ta'izz governorate, artillery shells hit 22 May School, killing a child and injuring five civilians, including three children and a woman.* **Source: CIMP**

11 October 2020: The Yemeni Teachers Syndicate alleged that Houthi rebels have, since taking over the capital and other major cities, between September 2014 and October 2020, killed at least 1,579 educators and wounded 2,642 more.* **Source: The New Arab**

The Americas
Colombia
Around 01 October 2020: In Medellin, Antioquia department, a history professor at Universidad Nacional and member of the Colombia Humana (CH) party was found dead at his residence. His body had several stabbing wounds. This incident is believed to be a personal dispute. **Sources: El Tiempo and Colombia Informa**

Threats and Violence Against Students
This section covers events affecting students and school children.

Africa
Côte d'Ivoire
19 October 2020: In Abidjan city, security forces clashed with students who had barricaded several streets in the vicinity of the Felice Houphouet-Boigny University, amidst protests of university costs.* **Source: Yahoo News**

Democratic Republic of the Congo
07 October 2020: In Luwowoshi suburb, Lubumbashi city, Haut-Katanga province, a university student was shot and killed when a group of men dressed in blue uniforms broke into various homes and raped at least four girls. **Source: Radio Okapi**

Sudan
05 October 2020: In Dilling suburb, South Kordofan state, a student at Dilling University was shot dead at the gate of his residence after his name was called by the unidentified perpetrator. **Source: Hudo Centre**

Asia
Bangladesh
19 October 2020: In Kagujiata village, Gopalpur, Tangail, a college student was raped by five men who used to regularly sexually harass her on her way home from college. The student was kidnapped from Mohanpur Bazar area and taken to the home of one of the perpetrators. She was found injured by the Mohanpur river terminal the next morning and taken to Tangail General Hospital for treatment. **Source: Dhaka Tribune**

Indonesia
13 October 2020: On Menteng Raya 58, In Central Jakarta city, Jakarta province, the Indonesian Muslim Student's Association (PII) office was reportedly raided by Indonesian police who shot tear gas at the building, beat several members of PII, and damaged the office allegedly for involvement in the riot against the omnibus law in Jakarta. Several members were arrested and sustained injuries.* **Source: ACLED**[1]

Europe

Kosovo

03 October 2020: In Bernice e Poshteme city, Prishtina district, several ethnic Serbian students were sitting in a school yard when they were reportedly shot by two men speaking Albanian. **Source: ACLED**[1]

Middle East and North Africa

Iraq

17 October 2020: In Al-Farhatiyah village, Balad district, Salah al-Din governorate, a group of 12 people composed by policemen, students and/or Sunni civilians were abducted by an unidentified armed group, suspected to be either IS or Asaib Ahl Al Haq. Eight (some sources report 10) people were executed, and their bodies were found in the area. Four civilians remain missing. Investigations are ongoing. **Sources: ACLED**[1]**, Liveuamap, Hawar News and Global Tribune**

The Americas

Haiti

02 October 2020: In Port-au-Prince, dozens of students held a protest in front of an unnamed university to demand work opportunities, during which one protesting student was killed. On 05 October, hundreds of university students blocked roads and burned cars, as they clashed with police during a second protest over the death of their fellow student. Another student died during the latter demonstration. Students blamed both deaths on police. **Source: AP**

This document is part of the Education in Danger project. It is published by Insecurity Insight. It is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of Insecurity Insight and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the U.S. Government.

The incidents reported are not a complete nor a representative list of all events that affected the provision of aid delivery 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. 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. Find about more on definitions used by Insecurity Insight and by GCPEA **here.**

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