

Education in Danger

Monthly News Brief

Threats and Violence Against Schools, Teachers and Students

November
2020

Africa

Burkina Faso

06 November 2020: In Kossodo neighbourhood, Ouagadougou, an unidentified perpetrator threw a Molotov cocktail at the mosque of the Kossodo campus, causing a fire. The incident is believed to be related to a dispute between students. **Sources:** [Le Monde](#) and [The Canadian](#)

Burundi

17 November 2020: In Mugongomanga commune, Bujumbura Rural province, a teacher was abducted by National Intelligence Service (SNR) officers. His whereabouts remain unknown. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Cameroon

03 November 2020: In Kumbo city, Bui department, Northwest region, unidentified armed men raided the Presbyterian Primary School and the day section of the Presbyterian Secondary School, before reportedly abducting six children and 11 teachers. Students were forced to return home. The abducted children were released on the same day and the teachers were released later, on 05 November.* **Sources:** [Al Jazeera](#), [All Africa I](#), [All Africa II](#), [First Post](#), [Mimi Mefo Info I](#), [Mimi Mefo Info II](#), [VOA](#) and [Vanguard](#)

03 November 2020: In Bamenda town, Mezam department, Northwest region, four unidentified perpetrators reportedly fired weapons at an unnamed college before fleeing.* **Source:** [Vanguard](#)

04 November 2020: In Limbe city, Fako department, Southwest region, nearly a dozen unidentified armed men stormed the Kulu Memorial College, where they forced students and teachers to strip naked and physically assaulted them. They then ransacked the building and set a large part of it ablaze. Teachers were reportedly tortured. **Sources:** [All Africa I](#), [All Africa II](#) and [Mimi Mefo Info](#)

04 November 2020: In Fundong town, Boyo department, Northwest region, unidentified perpetrators kidnapped a disputed number of students, either six or nine, as they were on their way to school. They were released at an unspecified time. **Sources:** [All Africa](#) and [Vanguard](#)

06 November 2020: In Oku sub-division, Bui department, Northwest region, separatist fighters abducted four teachers of the Government Bilingual High School Lafele Djotin at a checkpoint while they were en route to work.* **Source:** [Mimi Mefo Info](#)

08 November 2020: In Mbengwi village, Momo department, Northwest region, a teacher was killed by military forces during a raid on the village. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

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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Education Under Attack
New report by [GCPEA](#) documented over 8,300 attacks on students, teachers, and other education personnel between 2015 and 2019.

09 November 2020: In Kumba city, Meme department, Southwest region, nine unidentified perpetrators reportedly attacked a private school, killing an unspecified number of children. Three of the perpetrators were killed.* **Source:** [Mimi Mefo Info](#)

10 November 2020: In Douala city, Wouri department, Littoral region, police arrested a teacher on the campus of the Government High School New Bell over accusations of complicity with separatists in the Northwest and Southwest provinces. The teacher has denied the allegations and claimed that he was arrested after being framed by his colleagues. He was reportedly tortured whilst in custody, and transferred to Yaoundé the next day.* **Source:** [Mimi Mefo Info](#)

12 November 2020: In Mamfe town, Manyu department, Southwest region, a school was fired at by suspected Ambazonian separatists. No casualties were reported.* **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Around 18 November 2020: In Bamenda city, Mezam department, Northwest region, gunmen stormed the Firm Foundation College and fired shots in the air, before kidnapping the principal and two teachers.* **Source:** [Mimi Mefo Info](#)

Around 18 November 2020: In Kumbo city, Bui department, Northwest region, police continued to detain the president of the parents-teachers association and the school coordinator of the Mother Francisca Bilingual International Academy. Their arrest initially came after school authorities failed to hand over donated computers to the police. **Source:** [Mimi Mefo Info](#)

Around 23 November 2020: In Bamenda town, Mezam department, Northwest region, an economics teacher was killed by suspected Ambazonian separatists.* **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Democratic Republic of the Congo

02 November 2020: In Tongo locality, Rutshuru territory, North Kivu province, a private primary school director and manager were both killed by unidentified armed men. **Sources:** [La Prunelle](#) and [MNCTV](#)

Around 11 November 2020: In the Bulongo area, Beni city, North Kivu province, around thirty schools remain closed due to insecurity in the area, despite the official return to schools in October. **Source:** [Radio Okapi](#)

Ethiopia

15 November 2020: In West Welega zone, Oromia region, attackers belonging to the Oromo Liberation Army killed at least 54 people after luring them to a school compound.* **Source:** [The New York Times](#)

19 November 2020: In Mekele city, Tigray region, an airstrike by the Ethiopian National Defence Forces struck an unnamed university and wounded more than 20 students, as the conflict between the Ethiopian Federal Government and the regional ruling TPLF raged on.* **Sources:** [AP](#), [Independent I](#) and [Independent II](#)

20 November 2020: In Jimma, Oromia region, a teacher was shot dead in his home by police forces who reportedly disposed of the teacher's body into a forested area. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Kenya

07 November 2020: In Marsabit town, Saku district, Marsabitun state, a teacher from the Dakabaricha mixed secondary school was shot dead at his home by unidentified gunmen. **Source:** [Nation Africa](#)

19 November 2020: In Kapedo village, Tiaty district, Baringoa state, between one and four people were killed, potentially including two high school students, when suspected armed Pokot militia attacked a group of men fetching firewood. Sources dispute the number of people killed, with some accounts suggesting three people are still missing. **Source:** [K24TV](#) and [The Star Kenya](#)

Mali

27 November 2020: In Tonka, Goundam commune, Tombouctou region, a teacher was kidnapped by suspected JNIM militants.* **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Mozambique

Around 01 November 2020: In Muidumbe, Cabo Delgado province, a teacher was beheaded by unidentified militants in front of his children, who were later abducted by the militants. His wife and niece were also killed. His niece was reportedly giving birth at the time of her death.* **Sources:** [Club of Mozambique](#) and [Moz24horas](#)

05 November 2020: In Nanjaba, 15 Km northeast of Macomia town, Cado Delgado province, an unspecified number of schools as well as houses were burnt by members of an Islamist militia who also reportedly beheaded two people and abducted six women.* **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

24 November 2020: In Tchumene, Matola municipality, outskirts of Maputo, a school security guard who lived at the school premises was murdered along with his wife and two children by unidentified perpetrators using blunt instruments. The perpetrators also stole a printer from the school. **Source:** [Club of Mozambique](#)

Nigeria

14 November 2020: In Zaria city and LGA, Kaduna state, about nine unidentified gunmen invaded the Nuhu Bamalli Polytechnic and abducted the head of the Department of Computing Engineering along with his two children. Another staff member was also shot in the hand during the attack. **Sources:** [Eons Intelligence](#) and [Nigeria Guardian](#)

15 November 2020: In Zaria city and LGA, Kaduna state, armed men kidnapped nine students of the Ahmadu Bello University from a bus on the Kaduna-Abuja highway. A number of students managed to escape, with one of them sustaining a gunshot wound. The perpetrators have since demanded a sum of N270 million as ransom. As reported on 24 November, the victims were released after their parents paid the ransom. **Sources:** [Sahara Reporters](#) and [Vanguard](#)

18 November 2020: In Itori town, Ewekoro LGA, Ogun state, unidentified perpetrators shot and killed a lecturer and Head of Department of Electrical Engineering of the DS Adegbenro ICT Polytechnic in his car whilst he was on his way home from a conference. **Sources:** [Eons Intelligence](#) and [Sahara Reporters](#)

28 November 2020: In Markurdi city, Benue state, a professor of the Federal University of Agriculture, Markurdi Chapter, was killed by two assailants in unspecified circumstances. It is believed his killing was related to a business transaction. Police have since arrested suspects. **Source:** [HumAngle](#)

South Sudan

As reported on 25 November 2020: In Kajo Keji town, Central Equatoria state, government and opposition forces continued to occupy unnamed schools and churches.* **Source:** [Eye Radio](#)

As reported on 25 November 2020: In Yei city, Yei River county and state, a Ugandan teacher of the Excel International Academy was found dead in a pond near his home. Police suspect that he was murdered. **Source:** [Eye Radio](#)

Asia

Afghanistan

02 November 2020: In Kabul, three unidentified gunmen stormed the training centre at the Law Faculty building of the Kabul University, throwing grenades, and firing bullets in classrooms. Some sources suggest one of the perpetrators detonated his suicide vest at the beginning of the attack. About 15,000 people were on campus at the time. The perpetrators took at least 20 students and lecturers' hostage, holding them in classrooms, while Afghan security forces and US troops arrived on the scene and engaged in a gunfight. Hundreds of students and teachers managed to escape by scaling the exterior walls of the campus, although many others remained trapped inside the premises. Within six hours, the perpetrators indiscriminately shot and killed 18 students and four teachers and wounded 27 more. Afghan security forces and US troops eventually killed the perpetrators. Classes resumed on 04 November. Later, on 14 November, the Afghan Government announced the arrest of the organiser of the attack, describing him as a recruit of the Haqqani network.* **Sources:** [Al Jazeera I](#), [Al Jazeera II](#), [Al Jazeera III](#), [Independent](#), [New Age](#), [Prensa Latina](#), [Scholars at Risk](#), [The Khaama Press News Agency I](#), [The Khaama Press](#)

[News Agency II](#), [The Khaama Press News Agency III](#), [The New Arab I](#), [The New Arab II](#), [The New York Times](#) and [Times of India](#)

08 November 2020: In Maidan Shahr city, Maidan Wardak province, unidentified perpetrators placed a bomb on the surrounding wall of an unnamed private university, which then detonated and killed three people.* **Source:** [TOLO News](#)

09 November 2020: In Kabul, an explosive of unidentified origin was detonated near the entrance of the Tabesh University, killing a law student at the Faculty of Political Science who was a commander within the Hezb-e-Islami political party. Five to nine other students were also wounded. **Source:** [Scholars at Risk](#)

Around 18 November 2020: In Alishing district, Laghman province, a schoolteacher was shot and injured by unidentified militants. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Azerbaijan

As reported on 09 November 2020: In the locations of Hadrut, Shushi, Aygestan and Mataghis, Nagorno-Karabakh enclave, attacks by Azerbaijani armed forces caused material damage to 76 schools, including Stepanakert Schools Number 4 and 10, and 14 kindergartens, prompting the closure of all 220 schools and 58 kindergartens. These closures have deprived 23,978 children of access to education, and 4,036 children of access to preschool education.* **Sources:** [Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Artsakh \(Nagorno-Karabakh\)](#) and [UNICEF](#)

Bangladesh

27 November 2020: In Rajshahi city, district and division, a group of students went to the Shah Mokhdum Medical College with the intention of staging a protest against the closure of the educational facility ordered by the Health Ministry. In response, college staff reportedly called some outsiders who assaulted the students with sticks, injuring 10 of them. The managing director of the college denied that the assault had happened, claiming that a scuffle broke out between staff and students as the latter attempted to enter campus by force. The next day, police arrested the wife and the brother of the managing director in connection with the assault. **Sources:** [New Age I](#) and [New Age II](#)

Hong Kong

20 November 2020: In Sha Tin town and district, New Territories region, national security police raided the Chinese University of Hong Kong, confiscating alleged evidence that students had violated the national security law imposed on Hong Kong by the Chinese Government this year. The raid came after graduating students held up pro-democracy banners on campus and called for Hong Kong independence, which is illegal under China's law. **Sources:** [RFA I](#) and [RFA II](#)

Pakistan

02 November 2020: In the Chitkan area, Panjgur district, Balochistan, a Baloch student was kidnapped by Pakistani security forces. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

28 November 2020: At Mastung area, Balochistan, three male Baloch professors at Balochistan University were abducted by Pakistani state officials on their way to Khuzdar to inspect an exam centre. Two professors were released several hours later, after being insulted and reportedly tortured. One professor remains in captivity, his whereabouts remain unknown.* **Source:** [Baloch Warna News](#) and [Dawn](#)

Europe

Germany

11 November 2020: In Spandau borough, Berlin, an 11-year-old pupil of an unnamed school threatened to behead his teacher with reference to the murder of the French teacher on October 16 who had shown cartoon depictions of the Prophet Mohammed during a lesson about freedom of speech. The boy issued these threats after the teacher had explained the importance of meetings between the schools and students' parents. **Sources:** [Abendblatt](#) and [Welt](#)

Middle East and North Africa

Iraq

05 November 2020: In Al Jubaylah area, Basrah city and governorate, the house of the Basrah Education Director was shot at by gunmen who were traveling in a car, resulting in damage to the outside of the house but no casualties reported. Another education director in the district was allegedly targeted in October.* **Source:** [ACLED¹](#) and [Nina News](#)

13 November 2020: In Al-Mu'almeen neighborhood, Muqdadiah city, Diyala province, a teacher was shot dead by an unidentified armed person on a motorbike. **Source:** [ACLED¹](#)

Islamic Republic of Iran

23 November 2020: In Qarchak city, Tehran province, the head of education for Qarchak County was shot and injured by an unidentified gunman. **Source:** [ACLED¹](#)

25 November 2020: Update: A British-Australian academic, who had been imprisoned by Iranian authorities since September 2018 on spying charges, was released in exchange for three Iranians detained in Thailand.* **Sources:** [AP](#), [The New Arab I](#) and [The New Arab II](#)

25 November 2020: Update: In Tehran, Iranian authorities moved an Iranian-Swedish professor, who has been detained since 2016 on spying charges, to Evin Prison. It was reported that Iran may have decided to enforce the death penalty against the victim by no later than a week from 24 November, prompting Sweden to urge Iran to call off the execution. By 3 December, Amnesty International announced that the execution was on halt but his fate remains unclear. **Sources:** [The New Arab I](#) and [The New Arab II](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

01 November 2020: In Kafr Sajna village, Idlib governorate, a medical student was killed by a landmine. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

04 November 2020: In Ariha city, Idlib governorate, a school girl was killed on her way to school by exploding artillery shells reportedly fired by the Syrian military.* **Sources:** [Air Wars](#), [SNHR](#) and [Twitter](#)

04 November 2020: In Ariha city, Idlib governorate, artillery shells reportedly fired by Syrian military artillery hit Martyr Zakariya Saedou school, resulting in damages to the school's building.* **Source:** [SNHR](#)

Yemen

01 November 2020: In Dar Sad district, Aden governorate, a teacher and member of the National Congress for the Southern People (a subsection of the Southern Transitional Council) was abducted from the As Salam School by security forces.* **Source:** [ACLED¹](#)

26 November 2020: In Al Mashannah district, Ibb governorate, students in the medicine department at Ibb University were reportedly attacked and beaten by Houthi forces during graduation rehearsals for mixing between genders.* **Source:** [ACLED¹](#)

The Americas

Colombia

Around 23 November 2020: In La Virginia, Risaralda department, a teacher affiliated to FECODE was shot dead by unidentified perpetrators.* **Sources:** [Vanguardia](#) and [El Colombiano](#)

Haiti

02 November 2020: In Gonaives, Artibonite, a university professor was shot at least three times by a man on a motorcycle outside his home. The professor was hospitalised but succumbed to his injuries. **Source:** [Le Nouvelliste](#)

Mexico

07 November 2020: In Acapulco de Juarez, Guerrero, a female school sub-director was abducted by at least four armed men, while leaving the private Militarised Madrid school. The school director was rescued the same day in San Isidro after a police operation in which several people were arrested. **Source:** [ACLED¹](#) and [El Sol de Acapulco](#)

17 November 2020: In Colonia Valle Verde, Torreon city, Coahuila state, the Mariano Azuela Technical High School Number 54 was stormed by three individuals who locked up the security guard and burned the management office with gasoline. They then proceeded to burn another room and fled as the police approached the building. No casualties reported. **Source:** [Milenio](#)

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¹ Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) [database attribution policy](#). Accessed 10 December 2020