



Reported Attacks on Education by the ADF in the DRC and Uganda

On the 23 June 2023 the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) carried out a horrendous and shocking attack on a school in Uganda: In the early evening, ADF rebels detonated a bomb at an NGO-supported school in Mpondwe, Kasese, and shot or killed at least 20 students and left a further 17 to burn to death. They also abducted six other students while killing a school guard. It is alleged that the school owners were involved in a dispute with the NGO operating the school and may have collaborated with the ADF.

According to Insecurity Insight's monitoring, the ADF has attacked education at least eight times in the DRC and Uganda between 1 January 1998 and 30 June 2023. The majority of such events occurred close to the DRC-Uganda border but on the fringes of areas where the ADF is most active. Seven of the attacks have occurred since 2018. However, the same group reportedly also attacked a school in Uganda in 1998. Originally based in western Uganda, the ADF relocated to neighbouring DRC in 2021 having reportedly pledged allegiance to IS in 2019. The ADF's attacks on education fit into the group's broader pattern of violence against civilians. The Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) reports 122 targeted ADF attacks against civilians between 1 January and 30 June 2023, all occurring in North Kivu and Ituri in the DRC and Kasese in Uganda, shown in blue below. In these incidents, 645 people are reported to have been killed and many more abducted.

