

Education in Danger

Monthly News Brief

April
2021

Safety, security and access incidents affecting the provision of education.

Insecurity Insight publishes data on incidents where teachers were killed, kidnapped or arrested (KKA) and incidents where schools were damaged or destroyed by a perpetrator including state and non-state actors, criminals, individuals, students and other staff members. **Access the data via our [website](#) or on [HDX](#).**

Past editions: [March 2021](#); [February 2021](#)

Visit our [website](#), join our [mailing list](#), follow us on [Twitter](#). Get in [touch](#) to report an incident or have additional information on an incident we have reported on.

The [Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack](#) (GCPEA) provided technical guidance on definitions of attacks on education. More on definitions used by [Insecurity Insight](#) and by [GCPEA](#). * = GCPEA incident.

Safety, security and access incidents

Incidents of threats and violence affecting the provision of education.

Africa

Ethiopia

25 April 2021: In Dembi Dolo, Kellem Wollega, western Oromia region, a teacher at Dembi Dolo University and PhD candidate at Arba Minch University was shot dead by suspected security forces during a raid on his house. Police denied involvement and blamed the assassin group Abba Torbe.

Sources: [ACLED](#)¹, [Addis Standard](#) and [Advocacy for Oromia Association](#)

Madagascar

22 April 2021: In Anjozorobe city, Analamanga region, the director of a primary school was attacked and killed by bandits who broke into his home. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Mali

16 April: In Sékhodounga village, Mahina commune, Bafoulabé cercle, Kayes region, two schools were closed after two buildings used by local teachers were set on fire.* **Source:** [Studio Tamani I](#) and [Studio Tamani II](#)

19 April 2021: At Sanguela village, Koutiala commune, Sikasso region, a school was closed down by suspected Katiba Khalid ibn al-Walid militants who fired gunshots in the air and threatened the school director.* **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

23 April 2020: At Sékhodounga village, Mahina commune, Bafoulabé cercle, Kayes region, a building used by teachers was set on fire.* **Sources:** [Studio Tamani I](#) and [Studio Tamani II](#)

27 April 2021: At Konna town, Mopti region, a school was fired at and closed down by suspected Katiba Macina militants who seized phones and motorbikes from teachers.* **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Niger

13 April 2021: In Niamey city, a fire of unidentified origin ripped through 21 straw huts serving as classrooms of a school, killing 20 pre-school children between the ages of three- and five-years-old.

The cause of the fire is reportedly unknown, though teachers unions highlighted the ongoing dangers of using temporary wood and straw huts as learning spaces. **Source:** [al Jazeera](#) and [New Age](#)

Nigeria

05 April 2021: Updates: In Kaduna state, bandits released five of the 39 students abducted from the Federal College of Forestry Mechanisation, Afaka locality, on 11 March. The survivors were hospitalised for treatment. On 08 April, the perpetrators selected four other male abductees and a female and dropped them off on a highway around Giwa LGA with motorcycles.* **Sources:** [Eons Intelligence I](#), [Eons Intelligence II](#), [Sahara Reporters](#) and [Vanguard](#)

08 April 2021: In Afaraukwu community, Umuahia North LGA, Abia state, explosive devices suspected to have remained since the Nigerian Civil War era were discovered in a classroom of the Union Primary School, forcing the school to temporarily shut down.* **Sources:** [Eons Intelligence](#) and [HumAngle](#)

08 April 2021: In several communities, Gwer LGA, Benue state, troops from the Nigerian Army's Operation Whirl Stroke razed and demolished schools and hospitals, alongside houses, farms and vehicles, as part of a wider assault in such areas, leaving at least 70 persons dead.* **Source:** [Sahara Reporters](#)

20 April 2021: At Kasarami village, Gwagwada, Chikun LGA, Kaduna state, Greenfield University was attacked by a Kaduna communal militia who killed one staff member, kidnapped three staff and 20 students. By 26 April, the kidnappers had executed five students. A ransom was demanded for their release.* **Sources:** [Aljazeera](#), [BBC](#), [CNN](#), [France 24](#), [Council on Foreign Relations](#), [IOL](#), [Premium Times Nigeria](#), [Punch](#), [Scholars at Risk](#), [The Guardian](#) and [Vanguard Nigeria](#)

20 April 2021: In Olomilagbala area, Ilesa city, Osun state, five men kidnapped a female student of the Osun State College of Health Technology, after invading the hostel she was staying at. Police rescued her unhurt around two hours later. **Source:** [Punch](#)

26-27 April 2021: In Makurdi city, Benue state, gunmen kidnapped an unspecified number of students from the Federal University of Agriculture campus for a ransom of NGN21 million. Two students escaped the next day. **Sources:** [BBC](#), [Premium Times](#) and [Vanguard Nigeria](#)

29 April 2021: In Esan West LGA, Edo state, a professor of Engineering and former Head of Department of Mechanical Engineering at Ambrose Alli University was abducted by gunmen near his farm. The perpetrators demanded a N18 million ransom. **Sources:** [Daily Post](#), [Nigeria Tribune](#) and [Punch Nigeria](#)

29 April 2021: In Barkin Ladi LGA, Plateau state, four students from King's School, a mission school owned by Calvary Ministries, were abducted by a Plateau communal militia. Three students later escaped. The third student was rescued unharmed three days later by Operation Safe Haven (OPSH) soldiers.* **Sources:** [ACLED¹](#), [Premium Times Nigeria](#) and [The Guardian](#)

South Africa

07 April 2021: In Umlazi township, eThekweni municipality, KwaZulu-Natal province, police fired water cannons at protesting students of the Mangosuthu University of Technology.* **Source:** [Scholars at Risk](#)

19 April 2021: In Butterworth town, Mquma municipality, Amathole district, Eastern Cape province, students looted the cafeteria, and set a university bus ablaze on the campus of the Walter Sisulu University amidst protests over policies that exclude students who owe tuition fees from registering for classes. One student was arrested. **Source:** [Scholars at Risk](#)

22 April 2021: In Lanesa town, Gauteng province, two men kidnapped a 31-year-old female teacher of the Progress Primary School from her home. Her dead body was found in a shallow grave in the Phumlamqashi neighbourhood on 27 April. Police have since arrested one suspect, and continue to look for another. **Source:** [IOL](#)

Asia

Afghanistan

Around 02 April 2021: In Chaki Wardak district, Wardak province, a teacher was killed by Afghan forces. **Source:** [ACLEDD¹](#)

Around 8 April 2021: In Khost city, Khost province, a teacher was killed by Afghan forces. **Source:** [ACLEDD¹](#)

As reported on 16 April 2021: In Arghandab district, Kandahar province, airstrikes, vehicle-borne explosive devices and other forms of ongoing conflict have caused damage to at least 10 schools, six of which are dedicated to girls, as well as civilian buildings.* **Source:** [ECHO](#)

24 April 2021: In Kabul city, a university lecturer was killed by gunmen believed to be militants while on his way to Peshgam Higher Education Institute.* **Sources:** [ACLEDD¹](#) and [Al Jazeera](#)

28 April 2021: In the Noabad area, Dawlatyar district, Ghor province, 20 civilians including students were abducted by Taliban militants. **Source:** [ACLEDD¹](#)

30 April 2021: In Puli Alam city and district, Logar province, a car bomb exploded close to a guesthouse where high school students were reportedly staying, causing multiple roofs to collapse. The blast killed 30 people, including a number of students, and injured a further 90. A hospital and residential houses were also damaged.* **Source:** [BBC](#)

China

28 April 2021: In Beiliu county-level city, Yulin prefecture-level city, Guangxi autonomous region, a man broke into a kindergarten and went into a stabbing rampage, injuring 18 people, including six pupils, and two teachers. Police apprehended the perpetrator at the crime scene. **Source:** [RT](#)

India

30 March 2021: In Bhiwani city, Haryana state, a 25-year-old female Physics Teacher was dragged into a car and kidnapped by three unidentified perpetrators in broad daylight while she was on the way home from work. **Source:** [Times Now](#)

Indonesia

08 April 2021: In Julukoma village, Beoga district, Puncak Regency region, Papua province, an elementary school teacher was killed and three school classrooms torched during an attack carried out by an armed separatist group.* **Sources:** [Antara News](#), [Indonesian Tribune](#), [Nusa Daily](#), [Papua Daily](#), [Real Papua](#) and [VOI](#)

09 April 2021: In Julukoma village, Beoga district, Puncak Regency region, Papua province, a junior high school teacher was shot in his chest and killed by a stray bullet fired by an armed separatist group who opened fire at a kiosk. **Sources:** [Antara News](#), [Indonesian Tribune](#), [Nusa Daily](#), [Papua Daily](#), [Real Papua](#) and [VOI](#)

11 April 2021: In Beoga district, Puncak Regency region, Papua province, nine classrooms of the Beoga public junior high school were set ablaze by an armed separatist group.* **Sources:** [Antara News](#), [Indonesian Tribune](#), [Nusa Daily](#), [Papua Daily](#), [Real Papua](#) and [VOI](#)

Kyrgyzstan

As reported on 30 April 2021: In Kok-Terek village, Batken oblast, a school, a border outpost and several houses were burned down amid a conflict between members of the Kyrgyz and Tajik Armed Forces that escalated near the Golovnoy water facility on 28 April.* **Sources:** [Human Rights Watch](#), [New Age](#) and [Tass](#)

Myanmar

As reported on 28 April 2021: Myanmar armed forces had used 82 education facilities for military purposes since the military takeover. **Source:** [UNICEF](#)

Middle East and North Africa

Saudi Arabia

14-15 April 2021: In Jizan city and region, debris from missiles fired by Houthi rebels in neighbouring Saada governorate, Yemen, caused a small fire at the Jizan University.* **Sources:** [AP](#) and [The New Arab](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

03 April 2021: In Al-Zar, Deir-ez-Zor governorate, a teacher and brother of an IS member was detained by SDF rapid intervention forces and the Global Coalition ground forces during a raid with the aim of capturing an IS member in the town. As the targeted person was not at home, the brother was detained instead. **Source:** [SOHR](#)

08 April 2021: At Sheikh Miskine town, Dara'a governorate, the headmaster of a high school and his brother were shot and killed by gunmen.* **Sources:** [Liveuamap](#), [SNHR](#), and [SOHR](#)

The Americas

Brazil

23 April 2021: At Universidade Paulista, São Paulo city, São Paulo state, an IED was found inside a men's bathroom shortly before students were scheduled to take a physiotherapy exam, forcing students and faculty to evacuate. **Source:** [Scholars at Risk](#)

Haiti

24 April 2021: In Port-au-Prince, Ouest, a professor of the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy of the State University of Haiti and pharmacist was abducted by gang members while she was leaving the University after a lecture. A ransom of 400,000 US dollars was demanded and she was released on 1 May. **Sources:** [ACLED](#)¹ and [Alterpresse](#)

Peru

20 April 2021: In Acobamba town, district and province, Huancavelica region, demonstrating students set fire to a door at the National University of Huancavelica, where a meeting was taking place during a wider protest over the COVID-19 pandemic. **Source:** [Scholars at Risk](#)

Venezuela

As reported on 29 April 2021: In unspecified locations, military personnel continued to occupy four schools, depriving at least 1,500 children of education.* **Source:** [ECHO](#)

This Monthly News Brief comprises reported incidents of threatened or actual violence affecting education. It is part of the Education in Danger project by Insecurity Insight. It is prepared from information available in local, national and international news outlets and online databases.

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. This document 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, the U.S. Government, or Save the Children Federation, Inc.

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¹ Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) [database attribution policy](#). Accessed 06 May 2021.