

CAMEROON

Threats and Violence Against Civilians and Vital Civilian Facilities

Bulletin 1: January-April 2020



Healthcare

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Education

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Aid

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IDPs

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Threats and Violence Against Healthcare

15 February 2020: In Mandoussa village, Mayo-Sava department, Far North region, a health centre and a school were burnt down during an attack by Boko Haram militants.

19 February 2020: In Bamenda town, Mezam department, Northwest region, military forces shot and killed a suspected Ambazonian separatist at the entrance of a private hospital. According to the Ministry of Defence, the soldier who opened fire on the victim was arrested.

20 February 2020: In Bamenda village, Mezam department, Northwest region, a caregiver was shot and killed in the premises of St. Mary's Hospital and some of the hospital property was also destroyed during this attack.

23 March 2020: In Malika village, Mayo-Sava department, Far North region, Boko Haram attacked the village, destroyed a hospital, and killed five civilians.

07 April 2020: In Toufou village, Mayo-Tsnaga department, Far North region, Boko Haram attacked the village, destroying a health centre and killing a civilian.

Incidents reported on the WHO SSA¹

As of 30 April 2020, there have been no incidents reported on the World Health Organization's (WHO) Surveillance System of Attacks on Healthcare (SSA) from Cameroon for the period 1 January-30 April 2020.

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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.

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Threats and Violence Against Education

Around 23 January 2020: In Ayos town, Nyong-et-Mfoumou department, Centre region, a high school principal was beaten and detained overnight by Gendarmerie forces under the orders of a female Nyong-et-Mfoumou department representative. The principal was reportedly assaulted after having asked the official to wait for students to complete a test before visiting their classroom.

30 January 2020: In Buea village, Anglophone department, Southwest region, a 19-year-old secondary school student was kidnapped and had a finger removed by separatists for wanting to go to school.

15 February 2020: In Mandoussa village, Mayo-Sava department, Far North region, an unnamed school, and a health centre were set on fire during an attack on the village by Boko Haram militants.

Around 18 March 2020: In the Northwest and Southwest regions, all 6,379 schools and 4,200 community centers have been closed due to COVID-19. It is estimated that 1,033,000 children are affected by this.

Threats and Violence Against Aid Operations

06 February 2020: In the Northwest region, non-state armed groups imposed a six-day lockdown to enforce the boycott of the February elections causing disruptions to aid delivery.

24 March 2020: In Mora town, Mayo-Sava department, Far North region, a young girl detonated herself in one of the central areas for humanitarian relief in the region, leading to a temporary suspension of humanitarian efforts in Mora.

Threats and Violence Against IDPs and Refugees

11 January 2020: In the Far North region, Ndaba IDP camp was attacked by Boko Haram. A 57-year-old male IDP was injured.

13 February 2020: In Kolofata town, Mayo-Sava department, Far North region, an IDP camp was attacked and houses were looted by Boko Haram militants. No casualties were reported. Military forces later recovered some of the looted goods.

Violence Against Civilians

As of 30 April 2020, 64 incidents of violence causing 84 civilian deaths were documented.²

- High numbers of incidents were reported in Far North (30) and Northwest regions (30). In April, military forces arrested and tortured 100 people, including women and children, in Mbve village, Bui department, North West region, in retaliation for the death of a soldier. In the attack, Boko Haram attacked and looted several villages causing many fatalities, including a 10-year old shepherd.
- In contrast, low number of attacks were reported in the Centre and South West regions (two each).
- Named perpetrators of violence against civilians included:
 - Ambazonian Defense Forces (ADF)
 - Boko Haram
 - Military forces of Cameroon

Notes

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¹ 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.

² This includes two incidents that affected healthcare.