

Education in Danger

Monthly News Brief

Threats and Violence Against Schools, Teachers and Students

December
2020

Africa

Cameroon

03 December 2020: Update: In Kumba city, Southwest region, police have pressed criminal charges against the proprietress of the Mother Francisca International Bilingual Academy and her partner, alongside four other persons, following the killing of seven young students on 24 October 2020. **Source:** [Mimi Mefo Info](#)

09 December 2020: In Oku village, Boyo department, Northwest region, a student was shot and injured by Ambazonian separatists on his way to school.* **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

As reported on 09 December 2020: Update: In Northwest and Southwest regions, the long-standing Anglophone crisis has forced over a thousand secondary school teachers to abandon their jobs and seek safety elsewhere within Cameroon or abroad. The Cameroonian Government has requested teachers present themselves to the Ministry for Secondary Education within 14 days of leaving their positions and threatened to take disciplinary action against them if they fail to do so. **Sources:** [Mimi Mefo Info I](#) and [Mimi Mefo Info II](#)

11 December 2020: Update: The current whereabouts of a female teacher from the Government Primary School Akono, reportedly arrested alongside her children by government security forces on 03 November 2020, remains unknown. **Sources:** [Mimi Mefo Info](#) and [Tebopost](#)

Around 15 December 2020: In Yaounde city, Mfoundi department, Centre region, a teacher was arrested and tortured by the security forces for allegedly collaborating with Ambazonian separatists. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

20 December 2020: In Balwana village, Bourrha subdivision, Mayo-Tsanaga department, Far North region, two teachers were kidnapped by heavily armed Boko Haram gunmen. The terrorists had specifically targeted the teachers, having reportedly arrived with a list of teachers' names to kidnap.* **Source:** [Mimi Mefo Info](#)

22 December 2020: In Bambili village, Mezam department, Northwest region, the Principal of CCAST Bambili School was reportedly kidnapped alongside a traditional leader by separatist fighters.* **Source:** [Mimi Mefo Info](#)

26 December 2020: Update: In Yaounde, 45 days after his arrest over accusations of links with separatists or involvement in the Anglophone crisis, a teacher from the Government High School New Bell has resurfaced at the Kondengui Principal Prison, where he was held in inhumane conditions. **Source:** [Mimi Mefo Info](#)

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.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

02 December 2020: In Masisi, Masisi territory, North Kivu province, two teachers were beaten and had their belongings destroyed by FARDC soldiers.* **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

11 December 2020: In Kisharo village, Rutshuru territory, North Kivu province, at least seven civilians, including a teacher, were kidnapped by armed militiamen during an incursion. The local school closed that day in solidarity with the kidnapped teacher. The area is widely frequented by FDLR and Nyatura militias. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Mali

05 December 2020: At Ouatagouna village, Ansongo commune, Gao province, a school and town hall were set on fire and young male civilians were assaulted during an attack on the village carried out by suspected ISGS militants.* **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

29 December 2020: Between Dala and Douentza, Douentza commune, Mopti region, six teachers were abducted by suspected Katiba Macina (JNIM) militants as they ambushed a bus. The victims were reportedly released on December 31.* **Sources:** [Radio Guitan](#) and [ACLED](#)¹

Nigeria

02 January 2021: Near Matari village, Maiduguri LGA, Borno state, Boko Haram militants stormed the Damaturu-Maiduguri Road in military uniforms and mounted a roadblock with three Hilux vans and motorcycles. The militants abducted between 20 and 50 motorists and passengers, including the Secretary General of the National Union of Yobe State Students and a Senior Protection Assistant of the UNHCR. **Sources:** [ACLED](#)¹, [Eons Intelligence](#), [Nkiruka Nistroran](#), [Sahel Standard I](#) and [Sahel Standard II](#)

07 December 2020: In Uvwie LGA, Delta state, armed kidnappers in military uniforms abducted two female teachers at Ohorhe Secondary School. The victims were released unharmed 10 days later. **Sources:** [Council on Foreign Relations](#), [Punch Nigeria](#) and [The Nation](#)

07 December 2020: In Ngala town and LGA, Borno state, Boko Haram militants attacked Ngala International Secondary School IDP camp, burning down fourteen households and killing three IDPs. The building has not been used as a school for a long time. **Sources:** [Borno State Emergency Management Agency](#) and [Secours Islamique](#)

11 December 2020: In Kankara LGA, Katsina state, dozens of armed gunmen on motorcycles stormed the all-boys Government Science Secondary School, shooting sporadically, before abducting 334 students and taking them to a rainforest in neighbouring Zamfara state. A security guard was killed in the initial attack. In response, the provincial government ordered the closure of all schools across Katsina until further notice. Many students managed to escape or were released by December 17. The students reported being beaten during their captivity and deprived of food and water. At least two students were reportedly killed. Boko Haram claimed responsibility for the attack, but government authorities disputed that claim, and attributed the attack to a Fulani gang instead.* **Sources:** [Council on Foreign Relations](#), [HumAngle](#), [Reuters](#), [Sahara Reporter](#), [Vanguard I](#), [Vanguard II](#) and [VOA](#)

12 December 2020: In Katsina state, the provincial government ordered the immediate closure of all secondary boarding schools, following the abduction of 334 students from the Government Science Secondary School on December 11. **Source:** [Sahara Reporter](#)

15 December 2020: In Zamfara state, the provincial government ordered the closure of 10 schools bordering Katsina, following the abduction of 334 students from the Government Science Secondary School on December 11. **Source:** [HumAngle](#)

15 December 2020: In Asaba, Oshimili South LGA, Delta, a former school principal and her son, a pastor, were attacked and killed in their residence. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

16 December 2020: In Jigawa state, the provincial government ordered the closure of schools, following the abduction of 334 students from the Government Science Secondary School on December 11. **Sources:** [BBC](#) and [Premium Times](#)

16 December 2020: In Kano state, the provincial government ordered the immediate closure of all public and private schools, following the abduction of 334 students from the Government Science Secondary School on December 11. **Source:** [HumAngle](#)

19 December 2020: Near Mahuta village, Dandume LGA, Katsina state, unidentified gunmen abducted over 80 mostly female students of the Islamic school Hizburrahim Islamiyya as they were returning home from a religious celebration in a neighbouring village. All victims were rescued and released by security forces following a gunfight on December 20. **Sources:** [BBC](#), [Premium Times](#), [The Star](#), [Vanguard](#) and [VOA](#)

South Sudan

31 December 2020: At Rombur village, Bari-inhabited territory, north of Juba, Central Equatoria state, a school was looted by unidentified attackers who raided the village. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Zimbabwe

05 December 2020: In Zaka, Zaka Central district, Masvingo province, a teacher was assaulted by police and left with serious facial injuries for allegedly violating coronavirus curfew regulations. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Asia and Pacific

Afghanistan

02 December 2020: In Qalay-i-Zal district, Kunduz, an education department official was killed by gunmen believed to be Taliban militants.* **Source:** [Xinhua](#)

You may be interested in these reports by Human Rights Watch which include information on attacks on schools in the conflict regarding Nagorno-Karabakh: [Azerbaijan: Unlawful Strikes in Nagorno-Karabakh](#) and [Armenia: Unlawful Rocket, Missile Strikes on Azerbaijan](#)

Nepal

08 December 2020: In Miklajung rural municipality-1, Barkhe Government Forest around Miklajung area, Morang district, the principal of Saraswoti Basic School was allegedly abducted by six people and taken to a forest where he was murdered for allegedly being an informant. Members of the banned CPN group assumed responsibility for the assassination. **Sources:** [Insec Online](#) and [Kathmandu Post](#)

Middle East and North Africa

Iraq

16 December 2020: In Amara city, Maysan governorate, unidentified gunmen shot and killed a professor of the Al-Manara University College.* **Source:** [Al Jazeera](#) and [Scholars at Risk](#)

Islamic Republic of Iran

02 December 2020: Update: Iranian authorities reportedly postponed the execution of an Iranian scholar. **Source:** [Scholars at Risk I](#) and [Scholars at Risk II](#)

Occupied Palestinian Territories

17 December 2020: In Anin village, West Bank governorate, dozens of teachers and students suffered injuries including suffocation after Israeli military forces fired tear gas into a school. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Yemen

05 December 2020: In Dhale town and governorate, two unidentified perpetrators on a motorcycle shot and killed the dean of the Education Faculty of the Dhale University.* **Sources:** [ABC](#) and [The New Arab](#)

10 December 2020: In Sana'a, dozens of graduate students from Sana'a University were reportedly taken to an unknown destination by Houthi officials due to "gender-mixing" while they were attending a graduation ceremony. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

The Americas

Colombia

Around 30 December 2020: In Los Patios, Norte de Santander department, the body of the social leader and director of a local school was found at her residence with several stabbing wounds. Her son was also found injured. * **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Mexico

10 December 2020: In Villa Victoria, Michoacan state, a primary school was broken into and fired at by a group of alleged members of Jalisco New Generation Cartel. The perpetrators also broke into the Municipal Presidency. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

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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](#).

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¹ Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) [database attribution policy](#). Accessed 15 January 2021