

Education in Danger Monthly News Brief

Attacks on education

December 2018

Threats and incidents of violence against educational facilities, teachers and students

Africa

Burkina Faso

10 December 2018: In Firguindi village, Sahel region, militants presumed to be from the terrorist group known as Ansaroul Islam destroyed the village school with explosives. No further details specified. **Source:** [ACLEDD¹](#)

10 December 2018: In Kiembara department, Sourou province, Boucle du Mouhoun region, terrorist threats of unspecified origin forced the Kiembara County High School to shut until at least January 2019. **Sources:** [aOuaga](#) and [Flash Burkina](#)

13 December 2018: In Konga locality, Gomboro department, Sourou province, Boucle du Mouhoun region, a dozen unidentified armed individuals entered the Konga Primary School and the Konfa Post-Primary School and threateningly ordered teachers to leave the premises. The teachers complied, and leaving students wandering the street with no school to attend. **Source:** [aOuaga](#)

24 December 2018: In Kompienga province, Est region, a school director was abducted, threatened and subsequently released by militants suspected to be from either JNIM or ISGS. **Source:** [ACLEDD¹](#)

26 December 2018: In Loroni village, Sourou region, a school was burned down in an attack presumed to have been perpetrated by JNIM militants. **Source:** [ACLEDD¹](#)

27 December 2018: In Diapaga city, Tapoa province, a secondary school was burned down in an attack presumed to have been perpetrated by JNIM or ISGS. **Source:** [ACLEDD¹](#)

28 December 2018: In Bartiebougou commune, Komondjari province, another secondary school was burned down by suspected JNIM or ISGS militants. **Source:** [ACLEDD¹](#)

Cameroon

08 December 2018: In Bamenda city, Mezam department, Northwest province, unidentified perpetrators abducted 17

This monthly digest comprises threats and incidents of violence as well as protests and other events affecting education.

It is prepared by Insecurity Insight from information available in open sources.

All decisions made, on the basis of, or with consideration to, such information remains the responsibility of their respective organisations.

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students whilst they were on their way to the University of Bamenda. The kidnapping was alleged to be intended to discourage students from attending classes. On 13 December 2018, the hostages were released after intervention by the administrative authorities, law enforcement and their families.

Sources: [Journal du Cameroun \(a\)](#) and [Journal du Cameroun \(b\)](#)

11 December 2018 (DOA): In Belo commune, Boyo department, Northwest province, secessionists shot and killed the secretary of the Belo Bilingual High School. Their motivation is unknown. Source: [Cameroon Daily Journal](#)

18 December 2018: In Nkwen neighbourhood, Bamenda city, Mezam department, Northwest province, separatists allegedly abducted six students and a teacher of the Atiela Bilingual High School. The kidnapping was likely related to prior kidnappings intended to reduce school attendance in the region. Source: [Cameroon-Info](#)

Côte d'Ivoire

05 December 2018: In San-Pédro city, department and region, Bas-Sassandra district, child gangs armed with machetes and knives, locally referred to as '*the microbes*', launched an attack on an unspecified high school as part of a wider assault across the town, injuring at least one student and prompting several schools to shut until further notice. Source: [Koaci](#)

09 December 2018: Update: In Dabakala town and department, Hambol region, Vallée du Bandama district, a student of the Dabakala Modern High School who had been missing since 30 November 2018 was found dead behind an unnamed hospital, partially amputated. The suspected murderer has been arrested and is awaiting prosecution. Source: [Koaci](#)

Ghana

08 December 2018: In Accra, unidentified perpetrators broke into private accommodation and held four British schoolgirls and their teacher – who were in Ghana for a voluntary mission – at gunpoint, before sexually assaulting and robbing them. A local security guard attempted to intervene but was shot and seriously wounded by the attackers. The schoolgirls and teacher all returned to Britain following the incident and have been treated in hospital. Sources: [ACLED](#), [BBC](#) and [Daily Star](#)

Guinea

03 December 2018: In Labe city, Fouta-Djallon region, unidentified perpetrators threw stones at the Hoggo Mbouro school complex, disrupting classes. The attack is suspected to be linked to an ongoing teachers' strike which began in October. Source: [ACLED](#)¹

Mali

01 December 2018: In Agoufou village, Gourma-Rharous cercle, Tombouctou region, unidentified motorcycle-borne gunmen attacked and threatened a village school teacher before burning down the school administration building. Source: [ACLED](#)¹

13 December 2018: In Boré village, Dangol Boré commune, Douentza cercle, Mopti region, eight unidentified motorcycle-borne perpetrators entered the yard of an unnamed school, destroyed a motorbike, and left after stealing three other motorbikes and two mobile phones. Source: [Bamada](#)

23 December 2018: In Tenenkou village, commune and cercle, Mopti region, Macina Liberation Front militants kidnapped a male Malian national English teacher from the Ecole Fondamentale de Dia. No further details specified. Sources: [aBamako \(a\)](#) and [aBamako \(b\)](#)

25 December 2018: In Niambourgou village, Goundam cercle, Tombouctou region, unidentified perpetrators torched the Niambourgou School, destroying several classrooms. The motivation for the attack is unknown. **Source:** [aBamako](#)

Nigeria

03 December 2018: In Iwo city, Osun state, students from Bowen University shared an online video of a dorm building that had been set on fire as part of a protest over mandatory drug testing at the university, sparking panic. The school later said the video was fake and students had only set fire to a mattress. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

04 December 2018: In Esa Oke town, Osun state, gunmen believed to be Fulani herdsmen waited near to the Osun State College of Technology and kidnapped six staff members before killing another. Two students were also kidnapped, but shortly escaped and were brought into police custody. The motivation for the attack is unspecified. **Sources:** [ACLED](#) and [Premium Times Nigeria](#)

Somalia

22 December 2018: In Kismayo city, Juba province, an unidentified armed group killed a school teacher. The motive behind the attack is unknown. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Asia

Afghanistan

28 December 2018: In Urgan district, Paktika province, Taliban militants burned down a school for girls. No injuries or fatalities were reported. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Bangladesh

01 December 2018: In Sreepur upazila, Gazipur district, Dhaka division, a teacher who runs a Madrasa raped one of his pupils. On 02 December 2018, after the boy disclosed the incident to several people, a group of locals ransacked the Madrasa and the private residence of the teacher in revenge. The teacher is alleged to have raped other students in the past. **Source:** [The Daily Star](#)

India

06 December 2018: In New Delhi city, an angry mob vandalised an unspecified school after a female student of the school reported that she had been sexually assaulted by a classmate. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Nepal

07 December 2018: In Simokot area, Humala district, an unidentified group vandalized and looted valuables from three different schools. No further details specified. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

The Philippines

14 December 2018 (DOA): In Mindanao island, the New People's Army has been using indigenous schools for recruitment purposes. **Source:** [Al Jazeera](#)

Middle-East and North Africa

Libya

07 December 2018: In Sabri district, Benghazi city, two IEDs were found and dismantled at a school. The devices were suspected to have been planted by BSRC militants. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

21 December 2018 (DOA): In Benghazi city and district, Cyrenaica region, local residents complained

that an unspecified armed group occupies a public plot of land intended to be used as a school. **Source:** [Alwasat](#)

Occupied Palestinian Territories

05 December 2018: In Bethlehem city, West Bank, two Palestinian minors returning home from school were shot and injured by Israeli soldiers firing live ammunition. No reason for the shooting was given. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

06 December 2018: In Hebron city and governorate, West Bank, an Israeli soldier fired teargas into an unnamed school. Israel denied that the event took place until a video of it surfaced, at which point Israel claimed the soldier fired it in response to having rocks thrown at him – a claim not backed up by the video. Israeli soldiers have been repeatedly found to fire teargas and stun grenades indiscriminately into schools. **Sources:** [Haaretz](#) and [Press TV](#)

09 December 2018: In al Simeya village, Hebron region, West Bank, Israeli forces confiscated the tents and furniture of the al Tahadi 13 Elementary School before dismantling the walls and foundations of the building, thereby removing the school in its entirety. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

12 December 2018: In Jerusalem, heavily armed Israeli soldiers raided the Abu Dis campus of Al-Quds University, damaging campus property, seizing surveillance footage, and clashing with students who protested their presence there. The soldiers fired tear gas and rubber bullets at the students, who reportedly threw rocks in response. The incident bore similarities to two events which occurred earlier in the month at the offices of the Palestinian news agency WaFa. **Sources:** [MEMO](#), [Jerusalem Post](#), and [The Palestine Chronicle](#)

16 December 2018: In Burin village, Nablus governorate, West Bank, a high school was forced to evacuate its staff and pupils after dozens of Israeli settlers from Yitzhar accompanied by Israeli military forces attacked the facility and fired weapons in the air. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

16 December 2018: In Hebron city, Israeli forces attempted to raid a high school building, shooting teargas canisters into the schoolyard, causing 35 students and teachers with breathing difficulties. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Syrian Arab Republic

01 December 2018 (DOA): In Daraa district and governorate, fighting between unspecified parties gradually destroyed all but one of the food distribution centres of the UNRWA at the Daraa Palestinian Refugee Camp, as well as leaving damaged six other installations, including three schools and a clinic. **Source:** [UNRWA](#)

01 December 2018 (DOA): In Damascus, fighting between unspecified warring parties gradually destroyed all three clinics of the UNRWA at the Yarmouk Palestinian Refugee Camp, and damaged to varying levels almost all of its 23 facilities, including 16 schools. **Source:** [UNRWA](#)

Tunisia

13 December 2018: In Ben Gardane town, Medenine governorate, in the midst of a boycott of exams, students threw stones at an unnamed college located along Hospital Road, seriously injuring an employee. **Source:** [Jawhara FM](#)

The Americas

Brazil

04 December 2018: In Jardim Petsana neighbourhood, Osasco municipality, São Paulo state, a small group of students allegedly set a curtain on fire in a classroom of the Americo Marco Antonio State School before destroying dozens of notebooks, according to their classmates. The school principal denied that students were responsible and instead claimed that the fire was caused by a short circuit.

Source: [Globo](#)

04 December 2018: In La Agustina village, Mondomo district, Santander de Quilichao municipality, Cauca department, Andean and Pacific regions, unidentified perpetrators broke into the house of a student of the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana de Cali and kidnapped him. The motivation for the kidnapping is unclear. Source: [El Tiempo](#)

27 December 2018: Update: In Palmitas village, Antioquia department, Aburrá Valley region, the dead body of a Turkish academic was found 20 days after he disappeared in a mysterious manner. Source: [El Tiempo](#)

Mexico

05 December 2018: In Tuxtla Gutiérrez city, Chiapas state, unidentified individuals left a package of three potential IEDs near the Universidad de Ciencias y Artes de Chiapas. Mexican authorities removed the package and are investigating the motivation for the attack. Source: [Cuarto Poder](#)

07 December 2018: In Xocomulco neighbourhood, Chilpancingo de los Bravo city and municipality, Guerrero state, unidentified armed men entered three separate schools to attempt to extort teachers for money, leading to the suspension of classes. Source: [Cuadratin Guerrero](#)

10 December 2018: In Mexico City, students held a demonstration at the Preparatoria Plantel 2 Erasmó Castellanos Quinto High School to demand the dismissal of the director of the campus for his alleged affiliation with what are known as ‘shock groups’, subversive organisations whose purpose is to break up protests. At the end of the rally, hooded individuals threw stones and firecrackers at the door of the Rectory Tower, injuring one person. Two suspected perpetrators were arrested by security personnel of the university. Source: [Proceso](#)

Arrests, detentions and imprisonments

Asia

China

28 December 2018: In Beijing, students of an on-campus political society at Peking University were arrested, detained and allegedly forced into an unidentified black car nearby for non-violently protesting the university’s decision to dissolve their Marxist society in favour of a Chinese state communist society. Sources: [The Straits Times](#) and [South China Morning Post](#)

Europe

Turkey

04 December 2018: Update: Two academics – a professor and a research assistant – who were charged with “propagandizing for a terrorist organisation” in November have received their official sentences: the professor’s sentence was extended to a year and six months imprisonment, while the research assistant received a 2-year probation on her sentence. They were charged for endorsing the

'Academics for Peace' petition which criticised Turkish state and military actions against the Kurdish minority in the southeast. **Source:** [bianet](#)

06 December 2018: In Istanbul, the 28th Heavy Penal Court sentenced an additional university professor to one year and three months imprisonment for signing the 'Academics for Peace' petition calling for an end to fighting between Turkish forces and members of the Kurdistan Workers' Party. **Source:** [bianet](#)

10 December 2018: In Trabzan city, a journalism student who posted an article on social media titled "Journalism is Not a Crime" was arrested and taken into custody for "insulting the president". As no date had been confirmed for her court hearing, she was held in pre-trial detention until 17 December - when her attorneys successfully appealed for her release. **Sources:** [Ahval](#), [bianet I](#), and [bianet II](#)

11 December 2018: In Istanbul, the 37th Heavy Penal Court sentenced a retired physician and academic of the Medical School of Istanbul University to two years and three months in prison for having signed a petition organised by 'Academics for Peace', an organisation opposed to the Turkish military offensive against its Kurdish minority. The sentencing is one example of a wave of detentions and imprisonments for academics speaking out against the leadership in Turkey. **Source:** [bianet](#)

12 December 2018: A further nine academics who were charged with "propagandizing for a terrorist organisation" were sentenced to a probational one year and three months imprisonment for signing the 'Academics for Peace' petition. **Source:** [bianet](#)

19 December 2018: The Turkish Heavy Penal Court sentenced an additional academic charged with "propagandizing for a terrorist organisation" to two years and six months imprisonment for signing the 'Academics for Peace' petition. **Sources:** [Ahval](#) and [Hurriyet](#)

Middle-East and North Africa

Iran

01 December 2018: In Tehran, an academic professor from the University of Tehran and an Australian-Iranian research fellow from the University of Melbourne's School of Population and Global Health were arrested on espionage-related charges after their research challenged the new official position on population control dictated by Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khomeini. **Sources:** [Iran Human Rights](#) and [IranWire](#)

Strikes and other events of education insecurity

Africa

Mali

18 December 2018: In Bamako, employees of the Gabriel Touré University Hospital Center began an indefinite sit-in of two hours per day to protest poor working conditions. **Source:** [aBamako](#)

Sudan

13-14 December 2018: In White Nile state, teachers held a protest against the non-payment of their salaries, forcing schools to remain shut. **Source:** [Dabanga Sudan](#)

19 December 2018: In Atbara city, River Nile state, protests involving students and residents over price hikes and worsening living conditions prompted the Ministry of Education to suspend classes at all schools across the town. **Source:** [Sudan Tribune](#)

Asia

India

05 December 2018: In New Delhi city, students of Delhi University marched from the Delhi School of Economics to Maurice Nagar Police Station to protest the alleged apathy of police over mounting attacks on students in and around the campus. **Source:** [ACLEDE¹](#)

Japan

10 December 2018: In Tokyo, an investigation is underway after both the Tokyo Medical University and Jutendo University admitted that they had discriminated against over 100 applicants on the basis of gender. The universities had intentionally manipulated their admissions programs by falsely claiming that the mostly female applicants had failed their entrance exams. **Sources:** [Inside Higher Ed](#) and [The Mainichi](#)

Pakistan

11 December 2018: In Balochistan province, the regional government announced its intention to introduce a new Educational Act, which would bar public teachers from calling strikes and holding protests in educational facilities and punish those who do so. **Source:** [Tribune](#)

Sri Lanka

04 December 2018: In Colombo city, students organised by the Inter University Students' Federation marched towards the Presidential Secretariat to deliver a letter expressing concern over police suppression of prior protests and the suspension of their fellow students. Upon reaching the Presidential Secretariat, they were met by riot police who once again violently suppressed the protest by reportedly firing tear gas and water cannons to disperse the non-violent protesters. **Sources:** [ADAderana](#), [MENAFN](#) and [DailyMirror](#)

The Philippines

14 December 2018 (DOA): In Mindanao island, military officials at a checkpoint stopped two vehicles loaded with food and medical relief supplies en route to Sitio Dulyan village, telling the teacher, doctors and volunteers on board that they would have to turn back, thereby depriving 120 indigenous families from much-needed aid. **Source:** [Al Jazeera](#)

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¹ Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) [database attribution policy](#)