

Education in Danger Monthly News Brief

Attacks on education

November 2018

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

Africa

Burkina Faso

12 November 2018: In Toulfé village, Loroum province, four armed men on motorcycles stormed into the General Education College, where they threatened and lashed teachers before ordering them to leave the school premises. This incident created panic within the facility and beyond, forcing surrounding primary schools to shut down. **Source:** [Aouaga](#)

20 November 2018: In Boulmantiangou village, Kantchari department, unidentified militants set fire to a primary school. **Source:** [ACLED](#)

Cameroon

05 November 2018: In Bamenda city, Mezam department, Northwest region, unidentified armed militants alleged to be Ambazonian separatists abducted 78 or 79¹ pupils, a driver, a teacher and the principal of the Presbyterian Secondary School. On 07 November 2018, the pupils and their driver were released under unknown circumstances, but the other two staffers remained held captive. The separatists released statements denying their involvement, claiming the government orchestrated the kidnapping to discredit them. **Sources:** [ACLED](#), [BBC \(a\)](#), [BBC \(b\)](#), [BBC \(c\)](#), [Cameroon Daily Journal](#), [Cameroon-Info \(a\)](#), [Cameroon-Info \(b\)](#), [Cameroon-Info \(c\)](#), [Journal du Cameroun](#), [Xinhua](#)

10 November 2018: In Buea city, Fako division, Southwest region, unidentified perpetrators abducted a staff member of the Research and Cooperation Office of the University of Buea. The reason for the kidnapping remains unknown, as both separatists and government continue to blame each other for instances of violence across the country. **Source:** [Xinhua](#)

13 November 2018: In Buea city, Fako division, Southwest region, three unidentified gunmen stormed the Government Bilingual High School Muea, where they assaulted students, a teacher and the

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.

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¹ The BBC reported "at least 79" were abducted and later that "78" were freed. The Cameroon-Info says "78," while VOA News in an article dated 21 November 2018, states that "79" students were released.

vice-principal, and burned their books before abducting a teacher who attempted to raise the alarm. On 22 November 2018, the teacher was released under unspecified circumstances. **Sources:** [Channel Africa](#) and [Journal du Camroun](#)

16 November 2018: In Buea city, Fako division, Southwest region, unidentified perpetrators abducted a senior official of the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Buea for unascertained reasons. **Source:** [Xinhua](#)

18 November 2018 (DOA): In Northwest and Southwest regions, armed separatists ordered the closure of schools, and allegedly set fire to more than 100 of them for refusing to comply. **Source:** [Xinhua](#)

20 November 2018: In the outskirts of Kumba city, Southwest region, approximately 10 armed men entered the Lords Bilingual Secondary School to abduct both the principal and an unclear number of students. By 21 November 2018, nine students and the principal were released following intervention by the Cameroonian Armed Forces. **Sources:** [Cameroon Daily Journal](#), [Cameroon-Info](#) and [VOA](#)

20 November 2018 (DOA): In Kumba city, Southwest region, unspecified perpetrators kidnapped two principals of the Global Bilingual School under unspecified circumstances, and later released them. **Source:** [Cameroon Daily Journal](#)

21 November 2018: In Belo town and commune, Boyo division, Northwest region, unidentified perpetrators shot and killed the deputy director and teacher of the Belo Bilingual High School outside of his home. The motivation for the attack is unknown but likely to be related to the ongoing conflict. **Source:** [Journal du Cameroun](#)

27 November 2018: In Bamenda city, Mezam department, Northwest region, unidentified perpetrators kidnapped an unspecified number of students and staff of the University of Bamenda while they were on their way to the facility. **Source:** [Journal du Cameroun](#)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

12 - 15 November 2018: In Kinshasa city and province, students at the University of Kinshasa were met with live gunfire by the police after protesting the disruption to their education caused by a lecturers' strike that had halted classes for over a month. A graduate student shot by the police died from his wounds three days later, on 15 November, leading to an additional protest that day which resulted in another student being shot and killed by the police and seven others injured. **Source:** [Amnesty International](#)

Côte d'Ivoire

14 November 2018: In Man city and department, Tonkpi region, Montagnes district, a student assaulted a French teacher at the Modern High School after demanding the teacher let his friend out of class. The incident sparked members of the National Union of Secondary School Teachers of Côte d'Ivoire to launch a two-week strike in protest of what they claimed was an unsatisfying police response to the student. **Source:** [Abidjan](#)

Mali

31 October 2018 (DOA): In Banamba cercle, Koulikoro region, and Ségou cercle and region, jihadists forced the closure of at least 30 schools and demanded they all be transformed into Koranic centres. **Source:** [aBamako](#)

08 November 2018 (DOA): In two unspecified locations, jihadists occupying several unnamed schools were removed from the area by the Malian military. **Source:** [RFI Africa](#)

Somalia

27 November 2018: In Nakarumo village, Afgoye district, the director of Darul Amal School was murdered at his home by al Shabaab militants. No further details specified. **Source:** [ACLED](#)

South Africa

17 November 2018: In Ramokokastad town, Moses Kotane municipality, Bojanala Platinum district, North West province, unidentified perpetrators set fire to five buildings: the Kwenatlase High School, the Baphalane Primary School, the administration block at Ramokoka Primary school and an unnamed clinic. These arson attacks appear to be part of a wider pattern of civil unrest in the region. **Source:** [IOL](#)

Uganda

12 November 2018: In Rakai town and district, Central region, unidentified perpetrators set fire to the Saint Bernard Secondary School. Police arrested three suspects - including a school guard - for questioning. **Source:** [BBC](#)

Asia

India

01 November 2018: In Maloya district, Chandigarh, a mob – allegedly the family of a 13-year-old boy who was accused of sexually abusing a 6-year-old girl at the school – armed with sticks and bricks broke into the Government High School, destroyed property and attacked teachers. **Source:** [ACLED](#)

Nepal

15 November 2018: In Bharatpur city, Chitwan district, No. 3 province, nine students held the registrar of the Agriculture and Forest Sciences University hostage for unspecified reasons. **Source:** [The Himalayan Times](#)

Pakistan

03 November 2018: In Kalpani village, Buner district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, unidentified perpetrators opened fire on an education official. The victim later succumbed to his injuries after he was admitted to hospital. **Source:** [Dawn](#)

Europe

Italy

30 November 2018: The Italian government has named two members of Egypt's security forces as being responsible for the killing and torture of Giulio Regeni in 2016, an Italian-born PhD student who had been studying with Cambridge University on labour unions in Egypt when he disappeared. Egyptian authorities deny the claims. **Source:** [The Week](#)

Middle-East and North Africa

Occupied Palestinian Territories

08 November 2018: In Hebron city, dozens of Palestinian students from the Qurtuba School were attacked, along with their principal, by Israeli settlers. The settlers were escorted by Israeli Defence Forces for protection. **Source:** [ACLED](#)

11 November 2018: In Hebron, during a rally marking the 14th anniversary of Yasser Arafat's death, Israeli military forces fired tear gas cannisters into a school before raiding it, leaving students and teachers with difficulty breathing. **Source:** [ACLED](#)

18 November 2018: In Hebron, another tear gas attack on a school by Israeli forces left dozens of Palestinian teachers and students with breathing difficulties. **Source:** [ACLED](#)

24 November 2018: In Issawiya neighbourhood, Jerusalem, Israeli forces raided a high school, sparking clashes with students which the Israeli military responded to by firing sound bombs, or sonic booms at the school. Several injuries amongst teachers and students were reported. **Source:** [ACLED](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

08 November 2018: In Izaz city, Aleppo governorate, a vehicle-borne IED exploded next to al Andalous Primary School during school hours, damaging the school perimeter wall and the windows of two classrooms. The school was evacuated, and no casualties were reported. The perpetrator remains unidentified. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

12 November 2018: In Jarablos city, Aleppo governorate, a vehicle-borne IED exploded next to a school during school hours leading to an unspecified number of casualties. The perpetrator remains unidentified. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

18 November 2018: In Abu Hamam village, Deir Ez-Zour governorate, Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) gunmen allegedly opened fire on the al Zeraa primary school, damaging the walls of the school building but leaving no casualties. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

23 November 2018: In Darkoush village, Idlib governorate, Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham militants allegedly broke into and occupied a school by removing the main door and emptying it of its furniture. The school had also previously been occupied by the militia group, but they had been forced out by a civil society organisation – only to return and re-occupy. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

24 November 2018: In Jarjanaz village, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime forces allegedly fired a number of rockets into a school, resulting in an unspecified but significant number of children being killed. The school furniture and building were also moderately damaged. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

United Arab Emirates

26 November 2018: Update: The British PhD researcher Matthew Hedges was officially pardoned and released by the United Arab Emirates after accusations that he was a spy for the British government. **Source:** [BBC](#)

Yemen

11 November 2018: In Hodeidah city, district and governorate, Saudi-led coalition warplanes and helicopters bombarded Houthi positions in close proximity to the Hodeidah University and smoke reportedly billowed from the Dentistry Faculty, where Houthi fighters were allegedly stationed. **Sources:** [Amnesty International](#) and [UN News](#)

13 November 2018: In al Jah area, Bayt at Faqiah district, al Hodeidah governorate, Houthi forces allegedly used IEDs to destroy a school. However, no casualties were reported and no further information is specified. **Source:** [ACLED](#)

13 November 2018: In Sana'a, Houthi gunmen attacked the deputy dean of the Faculty of Commerce

and Economics for Community Affairs of the University of Sana'a for speaking in his lecture about ways to achieve power. **Source:** [Adenghd](#)

The Americas

Chile

16 November 2018: In Ercilla town and commune, Malleco province, Araucanía region, unidentified perpetrators set fire to the Millalevia School, located in the Chequenco sector, burning it to the ground before the arrival of emergency personnel. **Source:** [La Tercera](#)

Colombia

02 November 2018 (DOA): In Suárez town, Cauca department, unidentified perpetrators shot and killed a trade unionist and primary teacher of the Educational Institution Francisco Antonio Rada. While the exact intention of the perpetrators is unclear, the victim had received threatening letters in the past. **Source:** [El Tiempo](#)

United States of America

28 November 2018: In New York city, a Jewish psychology professor and Holocaust scholar at Columbia University was targeted by unknown perpetrators who broke into her university office to write threatening anti-Semitic words and paint swastikas across her walls. **Source:** [The Washington Post](#)

Arrests, detentions and imprisonments

Africa

Uganda

02 November 2018: In Kampala city and division, a research fellow at Makerere University was arrested for 'offensive communication' after reportedly insulting the president on social media. An increasing number of arbitrary arrests of government critics have been reported from the region. **Source:** [PEN International](#)

Asia

China

01 November 2018: In Beijing, two scholars from a liberal institute who were attempting to attend an academic conference at Harvard University were detained at the airport and prevented from leaving the country, allegedly on national security grounds. Chinese authorities have reportedly restricted the freedoms of scholars from several liberal institutes. **Source:** [South China Morning Post](#)

Europe

Turkey

12 November 2018: Turkish penal courts sentenced another university professor to imprisonment as part of a pattern of attacks on scholars and educators who speak out against the Turkish leadership. The professor, who was charged with "propagandizing for a terrorist organisation", had endorsed a petition criticising Turkish state military actions in the Kurdish southeast and advocating for peaceful solutions. He was sentenced to a year and three months in prison. **Source:** [bianet](#)

16 November 2018: In Istanbul, the dean of the faculty of law at Istanbul Bilgi University and the professor of mathematics at Bogazici University were arrested, along with ten others, for their alleged links to the civil society group the Anadolu Kultur association, which was instrumental in organising

the 2013 Gezi Park protests. All the arrestees except the dean of the faculty of law were released the following day after testifying to police. It is unclear yet whether the final detainee will be formally charged. **Sources:** [PEN international](#), [Arab News](#) and [Hurriyet](#)

28 – 30 November 2018: Turkish penal courts sentenced a further two academics to prison for a year and three months for “propagandizing for a terrorist organisation”. The first was an academic of Istanbul University, while the second was a research assistant at the Mimar Sinan University of Fine Arts. Both were reportedly charged for the same reason as the professor on 12 November – endorsement of a petition criticising Turkish military actions against the Kurdish region of the country. **Sources:** [bianet I](#) and [bianet II](#),

Middle-East and North Africa

Syrian Arab Republic

19 November 2018: In Idlib city, district and governorate, the Syrian Salvation Government detained a project manager of the NGO Violet for unascertained reasons, prompting the NGO to suspend its food distribution activities in schools on 20 November 2018. **Source:** [Smart News Agency](#)

Strikes and other events of education insecurity

Africa

Cameroon

21 November 2018: In Mayo-Oulo town and commune, North region, secondary school teachers held a strike to demand that the local gendarmerie commander step down. **Source:** [L’Oeil du Sahel](#)

Côte d’Ivoire

21 November 2018: In Korhogo city and department, Poro region, Savanes district, members of the Coalition du Secteur Éducation/Formation de Côte d’Ivoire began a three-day strike over labour and financial disputes. Police responded by arresting three striking teachers. **Source:** [Koaci](#)

26 November 2018 (DOA): In Duekoué city and department, Guémon region, Montagnes district, students of the Duekoué High School protested over their continuing lack of education due to a teachers’ strike. The protesting students allegedly aggravated the local transport workers union, who responded by attacking the student protesters, with the resulting clashes leaving a school building burned, a student killed, and several others injured. **Source:** [Koaci](#)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

12 November 2018: In Kinshasa, students of the University of Kinshasa demonstrated over the ongoing strike of their teachers. Clashes broke out between the various protest groups, and a police officer fired shots at a group of demonstrating students, killing two of them. He was consequently arrested. **Source:** [Digital Congo](#)

Guinea-Conakry

22 November 2018: In Kaloum sub-prefecture, Conakry region, several teachers held a sit-in to demand the payment of their salaries. Guinean authorities responded by arresting them. On 26 November 2018, the Kaloum Court of First Instance sentenced the teachers to a suspended six-month prison term over accusations of unlawful assembly on public roads. **Source:** [Africaguinee](#)

Sudan

11 November 2018: In Sennar town, Blue Nile state, Sudanese forces stormed the Abu Naama campus of the University of Sennar and detained 14 students for allegedly violating a ban on political activities

at the university. On 12 November 2018, the students were released upon payment of a fine. **Source:** [Dabanga Sudan](#)

Asia

India

21 November 2018: In Deohra village, Haryana state, parents and students held a protest over poor facilities and staff shortages at the Government High School by locking the school gates and preventing the school from opening. **Source:** [ACLED](#)

22 November 2018: In Kot Dhandal village, Punjab state, students at the Government Adarsh Secondary School held a protest over lack of teachers by locking all entry points to the school. The establishment has 10 teachers, but should have around 40, and the students had protested on 17 November but received an unsatisfying response from the administration. **Source:** [ACLED](#)

The Americas

Colombia

23 November 2018 (DOA): In Cauca department, agents of the mobile riot squad undertook an operation in the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Cauca for unascertained reasons. **Source:** [El Tiempo](#)

Nicaragua

06 November 2018: In Managua, the unexplained heavy presence of riot police on the premises of the Polytechnic University of Nicaragua forced students to stay inside. **Source:** [La Prensa](#)

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