

Education in Danger

Monthly News Brief

February
2021

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. **Download the data via our [website](#) or on [HDX](#).**

Visit our [website](#), join our [mailing list](#), follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). 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.

Past editions: [January 2021](#); [December 2020](#)

Safety, security and access incidents affecting the provision of education

Africa

Burundi

15 February 2021: In Kididiri, Busoni commune, Kirundo province, a police officer shot in the direction of three teachers accused of being National Congress for Liberty (CNL) members without injuring them. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

25 February 2021: In Rukaramu, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura province, an Imbonerakure high school teacher was attacked and killed by an armed group a few days after receiving death threats from a local chief during a National Council for the Defense of Democracy – Forces for the Defense of Democracy (CNDD-FDD) meeting in Mutimbuzi. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Burkina Faso

03 February 2021: In Raogo village, Pensa commune, Sanmatenga province, a school was set on fire by suspected militants during an attack on the village. Motorbikes belonging to a Volunteers for the Defence of the Fatherland (VDP) member were also burned and four people were killed.* **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Cameroon

01 February 2020: In Kouva locality, Mayo Moskata district, Far North region, suspected Boko Haram militants reportedly killed a student. No further details specified.* **Source:** [L'Oeil du Sahel](#)

02 February 2021: In Kribi town, South region, three suspects were arrested in connection with the murder of a teacher whose bruised body was found on the 31st of January.* **Source:** [Mimi Mefo Info on Twitter](#)

03 February 2021: In Dschang city, West region, University of Dschang a student attempted to set fire to the Faculty of Economics and Management buildings. It is suspected that the motive was the destruction of students' reports and other administrative documents. **Source:** [Mimi Mefo Info](#)

05 February 2021: In Bamenda town, Mezam district, North West region, four people, two of them students, were released by the Cameroonian military from an Ambazonian separatist camp. At least one of the students, a 17-year-old girl, was kidnapped a week prior by the separatists on her way to school. The detainees were reportedly tortured.* **Source:** [Voa News](#)

Around 7 February 2021: In Bamenda town, Mezam district, North West region, three students and another person were abducted by Ambazonian separatists at the Beyelle High School.* **Source:** [ACLED¹](#)

19 February 2021: In Kumba city, Meme department, Southwest region, students fled after hearing rumours of COVID-19 vaccinations at school. At least three students sustained injuries as they struggled to run out of their school campus. **Source:** [Mimi Mefo Info](#)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

20 February 2021: At Kalembe village, Walikale territory, North Kivu province, a teacher was kidnapped by an armed group.* **Source:** [ACLED¹](#)

20 February 2021: In Kazimia, Fizi territory, South-Kivu province, a teacher was killed with a machete by an unidentified armed group during an incursion in which the perpetrators were reportedly looking for money.* **Source:** [ACLED¹](#)

24 February 2021: In Mahungubwe locality, Uvira, South Kivu province, a teacher at Kibanga primary school and a football player were injured and abducted by an armed group, suspectedly Mai Mai militia, who later demanded a ransom for the teacher to be freed. **Sources:** [Kivu Times](#)

25 February 2021: In Bukavu city, South Kivu province, a rumour that school children will be vaccinated against COVID-19 provoked panic, with parents hurrying to pick up their children from schools. **Source:** [Radio Okapi](#)

Ethiopia

01 February 2021: In East Welegga division, Oromia region, a schoolteacher was shot dead by security forces for allegedly having links to the Oromo Liberation Front. **Source:** [ACLED¹](#)

Ivory Coast

15 February 2021: In Williamsville neighborhood, Abidjan city, Abidjan Autonomous district, a student was shot dead during a night security operation carried out by police forces who mistook the student for a gang member. One police officer was arrested. Violent protests took place the following day as a result of this incident. **Sources:** [GardaWorld](#)

Kenya

03 February 2021: In Igikiro settlement, Murang'a county, eleven students were suspected of setting fire to a school dormitory. The schoolboys were arrested and the school was closed indefinitely. **Source:** [All Africa](#)

10 February 2021: In Mandera town and county, the growing presence of al Shabaab jihadist groups in the region resulted in school closures due to teachers preemptively fleeing the area for fear of impending insecurity. **Source:** [The Defense Post](#)

23 February 2021: In South Mugirango constituency, Kisii county, three students allegedly set fire to a school dormitory. **Source:** [All Africa](#)

Niger

08 February 2021: In Gaja village, Guidan Roundji commune, Maradi region, a teacher and two other people were shot dead by gunmen on motorbikes. The incident is not believed to be targeted. **Sources:** [Aïr-Info Agadez](#)

08 February 2021: In Dan Mani village, Guidan Roundji commune, Maradi region, a student was shot dead by gunmen who also stole livestock. **Source:** [ACLED¹](#)

12 February 2021: Near Mararaba, Tchirozerine commune, Agadez region, a Tahoua University vehicle carrying the chief of the Faculty of Education Sciences was attacked by gunmen. The vehicle crashed and flipped over, sustaining damages. No casualties were reported.* **Source:** [ACLED¹](#)

Nigeria

18 February 2021: In Kagara community, Rafi Local Government Area, Niger state, armed men broke into the Government Science College and reportedly kidnapped around 42 people, including three teachers, three non-teaching staff, nine family members and 27 students. A student who tried to flee was gunned down and killed. A ransom was allegedly demanded from the Niger state governor. In reaction to the event, the Niger state governor ordered the temporary closure of all boarding schools in Rafi, Mariya, Minya, and Shiroro local government areas. The victims were released three days later, on 21 February.* **Sources:** [All Africa](#), [Eons Intelligence](#), [Info Chrétienne](#), [Reuters](#), [Sahara Reporters](#), [UN News](#) and [Vanguard](#)

18 February 2021: In Osogbo city, Osun state, approximately 20 youths armed with knives and other weapons invaded a school's premises, masquerading as students. Following the break-in, the state government ordered the closure of the school. **Sources:** [Sahara Reporters](#) and [EONS Intelligence](#)

22 February 2021: Along the Andoni-Ogoni road, Rivers State, suspected pirates ambushed and abducted a lecturer of the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies at the University of Port Harcourt. The academic was travelling by boat when he was abducted. **Sources:** [EONS Intelligence](#) and [Sahara Reporters](#)

22 February 2021: In Goniri town, Gujba Local Government Area, Yobe state, a Nigerian soldier reportedly assaulted the head teacher of a primary school, injuring his eye. The attack was allegedly triggered when the victim blocked traffic from passing through a street in the middle of the school. **Source:** [Sahara Reporters](#)

26 February 2021: In Jingebe town, Talata Mafara Local Government Area, Zamfara state, gunmen, some dressed as government security forces, assaulted the Government Girls Secondary School, a boarding school, and kidnapped 317 schoolgirls, seven of whom managed to escape. The perpetrators, reported to have numbered more than 100 men, broke the school gate and shot at the security guard before abducting the schoolgirls and taking them to the forest. The perpetrators demanded a ransom in exchange for the captives. As a result of the incident, the governor of Zamfara state ordered the temporary closure of all schools in the state.* **Sources:** [AP](#), [BBC](#), [EONS Intelligence I](#), [EONS Intelligence II](#), [EONS Intelligence III](#), [Daily Post](#), [Nkiruka Nistoran](#), [Punch](#), [Reuters](#), [The New Humanitarian](#) and [UN News](#)

Sudan

09 February 2021: In El-Fasher city, North Darfur state, schools were closed for three days following violence and insecurity in the city. **Sources:** [Dabanga Sudan](#) and [GardaWorld](#)

09 February 2021: In Kabkabiya town and district, North Darfur state, students demonstrating over a teachers' strike stormed their school, looted equipment, and burnt documents. **Source:** [Dabanga Sudan](#)

Asia

Afghanistan

03 February 2021: In PD6, Jalalabad city, Nangarhar province, a school principal was shot dead by gunmen in a suspected targeted attack.* **Sources:** [Xinhua](#)

07 February 2021: In Qaisar District, Faryab province, an airstrike by unidentified perpetrators destroyed Jan Bibi Uoz Bashi Girls' High School. The boundary wall of the school, the school's walls, windows and almost all school equipment were destroyed, depriving 3,000 girls from accessing their classrooms.* **Source:** [Reliefweb](#)

24 February 2021: In Injil district, Herat province, a teacher was shot dead and another civilian was wounded by gunmen.* **Source:** [New York Times](#) and [Twitter](#)

Indonesia

17 February 2021: In Kauman village, Jombang district, East Java province, the head of an Islamic boarding school was arrested and detained for abusing and raping 15 students aged 16-17 at the school. **Source:** [Union of Catholic Asian News](#)

Myanmar

19 February 2021: In Myitkyina city, Myitkyina Township, Myitkyina District, Kachin State, two education workers were beaten by Myanmar police and military forces in front of a college as the victims were preparing for an anti-military protest. **Source:** [Mizzima](#)

Middle East and North Africa

Iran

09 February 2021: In Tehran, the Islamic Revolutionary Courts sentenced a law professor to seven years in prison after convicting him of cooperating with an enemy state for attending a training course in Prague, organised by a Czech NGO that receives funds from the United States.* **Source:** [Radio Free Europe - Radio Liberty](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

04 February 2021: In Azaz city, Aleppo governorate, a male and a female student were assaulted by members of the National Police Forces after they stopped a bus carrying students from Mare at a checkpoint.* **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

06 February 2020: In Amouda city, Hasaka governorate, Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) reportedly arrested five teachers, allegedly for using a curriculum different to the one imposed by the SDF in areas under the group's control. The arrested teachers were taken to an undisclosed location. The teachers were released days later after pledging to stop teaching the regime's curriculum.* **Sources:** [SNHR](#) and [SOHR](#)

07 February 2021: In Amouda city, Hasakah governorate, a teacher was detained by the SDF for allegedly teaching the Syrian national curriculum.* **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

07 February 2020: In Rmailan town, Hasaka governorate, the SDF reportedly arrested six teachers, allegedly for using a curriculum different to the one imposed by the SDF in the areas under the group's control. The arrested teachers were taken to an undisclosed location.* **Source:** [SNHR](#)

Around 09 February 2021: In Karki Laki town, Hasakah governorate, eight teachers were detained by Asayish/ISF (internal security forces) allegedly for teaching the Syrian regime's curriculum to students. The teachers were released a few days later following mediation of local elders and dignitaries. Before their release, the teachers signed documents vowing to no longer teach the regime's curricula to the students in the area.* **Sources:** [SOHR I](#) and [SOHR II](#)

16 February 2021: In Amouda city, Hasakah governorate, ten teachers were detained by SDF for teaching the regime's curriculum.* **Source:** [ACLED](#)

23 February 2021: In Shahadah town, Hasakah governorate, three teachers were arrested by SDF for conscription.* **Source:** [ACLED](#)

Yemen

Around 05 February 2021: In Sanaa city, Amanat al-Asimah governorate, 50 employees and educators from the General Office of the Ministry of Education were reportedly abducted by pro-Houthi forces in an alleged effort to remove employees who refused to implement the sectarian curriculum as instructed previously by the Ministry of Education.* **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

The Americas

Colombia

Around 11 February 2021: In the rural area of Pueblo Rico municipality, Risaralda department, a community teacher was physically assaulted by military soldiers who raided his house and damaged furniture.* **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

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.

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¹ Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) [database attribution policy](#). Accessed 04 March 2021.