

Education in Danger

Monthly News Brief

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

Past editions: [April 2021](#); [March 2021](#)

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

Safety, security and access incidents

Incidents of threats and violence affecting the provision of education.

Africa

Cameroon

17 May 2021: In Kumbo town, Bui division, Northwest region, 11 educators at the Baptist Training School for Health Personnel at Banso Baptist Hospital Kumbo were kidnapped by Ambazonian separatists. All were released two days later.* **Sources:** [Mimi Mefo Info I](#) and [Mimi Mefo Info II](#)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

02 May 2021: In Nongo village, Irumu territory, Ituri province, the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) forces set fire to a school, a chapel and houses during security operations. Six men and a boy were killed and goods looted.* **Source:** [Kivu Security Tracker](#)

04 May 2021: In Dhema village, Djugu territory, Ituri province, several schools and homes were burnt down and a health facility looted by Cooperative for Development of Congo (CODECO) militants. **Source:** [Bunia Actualite](#)

12 May 2021: In Rutshuru territory, North Kivu, two teachers were kidnapped by the Nyatura Collective of Movements for Change (CMC) militants who demanded a \$2,000 ransom for their release.* **Source:** [Kivu Security Tracker](#)

Mozambique

Insecurity Insight's report "[Threats and violence against education in Mozambique in 2020](#)" highlights the increase in attacks against education from two in 2019 to ten in 2020. At least 10 schools were attacked and set on fire in Cabo Delgado province. 57% of these incidents occurred in the context of attacks on civilians in which multiple buildings, including the school, were burned down.

Nigeria

05 May 2021: Along Okigwe-Uturu Road, Isuikwuato LGA, Abia state, three students of Abia State University were kidnapped. Two escaped and the third, a female student, was released around 8th May. **Sources:** [Nigeria Security Tracker](#), [Eons Intelligence](#) and [Premium Times Nigeria](#)

17 May 2021: At Lamingo, Jos North LGA, Plateau state, a professor at the Medical Microbiology Department of the University of Jos and her husband were kidnapped from their home by gunmen



who demanded N15 million ransom for their release. They were released 24 hours later but it is not clear whether a ransom was paid, with some sources suggesting they were rescued by security operatives. **Sources:** [Daily Trust](#), [Eons Intelligence I](#), [Eons Intelligence II](#), [Punch Nigeria](#), [Sahara Reporters](#), [The Nation Online](#), [This Day Live I](#) and [This Day Live II](#)

20 May 2021: In Ijebu-Ode town and LGA, Ogun state, gunmen kidnapped a female lecturer and Deputy Director of Information Communication Technology of the Tai Solarin University of Education, Ijebu-Ode. **Source:** [Eons Intelligence](#)

25 May 2021: In Afikpo LGA, Ebonyi state, a suicide bomber detonated himself opposite the Capuse 2 Amaizu/Amangaballa Primary School.* **Source:** [Eons Intelligence](#)

30 May 2021: In Tegna town, Rafi LGA, Niger state, heavily armed bandits kidnapped at least 200 students of the Islamiyya School.* **Sources:** [BBC](#) and [Eons Intelligence](#)

South Africa

03 May 2021: In Vaalboschloot city, North West province, a female teacher at the Tshefoge Primary School was stabbed by a male teacher following a dispute around his refusal to sanitise and check his temperature before entering the school hall. **Sources:** [News 24](#) and [Sowetan Live](#)

Togo

22 May 2021: In Lome city, Maritime region, security forces fired tear gas at a teachers union meeting. Several participants were beaten and injured, and others arrested.* **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Uganda

04 May 2021: In Kampala city, Central region, a male student at the Metropolitan International University was shot dead on the campus by a member of the Local Defence Unit (LDU) allegedly for stealing a computer. **Source:** [The Independent](#)

Asia and Pacific

Afghanistan

01 May 2021: In PD19 district, Kabul city, a lecturer at the Islamic University was killed by gunmen.* **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹ and [Khaama Press](#)

03 May 2021: In PD2 district, Farah city and province, at least 18 people, including children, were injured in a hand grenade blast near Mirman Nazo school. No individual or group has claimed responsibility for the attack. **Source:** [Reportedly](#)

04 May 2021: In Janikhel district, Paktika province, suspected Taliban militants planted an IED at Ittehad Secondary School, injuring six students. **Sources:** [Sayhoon](#) and [Twitter](#)

08 May 2021: In Dasht-e-Barchi neighbourhood, Kabul, a car bomb detonated in front of the Sayed Al-Shuhada School for girls, killing at least 85 people, mostly teenage female students, and injuring 147. The population of the area is made up largely of ethnic Hazaras who have been targeted in the past by ISIS.* **Sources:** [Al Jazeera](#), [CNN](#), [NPR](#), [The New Arab I](#), [The New Arab II](#), [The New Arab III](#), [New Arab IV](#), [Twitter](#), [UN News](#) and [World Vision](#)

08 May 2021: In PD7 district, Kabul city, a magnetic IED blast of unidentified origin outside a school injured at least two people.* **Source:** [Twitter](#) and [TOLONews](#)

23 May 2021: In the Sayyid Khel district, Parwan province, a teacher was killed by gunmen in front of Saif ur Rahman Shahid School.* **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

29 May 2021: In Charikar town, Parwan province, a roadside bomb detonated by remote control struck a minivan carrying staff of the Alberoni University, killing at least three lecturers and wounding 15 others.* **Sources:** [Al Jazeera](#), [BBC](#) and [The New Arab](#)

Cambodia

As reported on 25 May 2021: In Pailin province, a court has sentenced a schoolteacher to one year in prison after he criticised a monument signifying Cambodian-Vietnamese ties on a Facebook comment in September 2020. The teacher had been living in hiding for the past six months. **Source:** [RFA](#)

Kyrgyzstan

28-29 April 2021: In Maksat village, along the Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan border, Leilek district, Batken region, two schools, a kindergarten and a health clinic, were destroyed during fighting between Kyrgyz and Tjik forces. **Source:** [RFERL](#)

Mongolia

21 May 2021: In Ulaanbaatar, the Minister for Education and Science was attacked with a knife by an individual inside the ministry building. The attacker had previously complained about the compulsory Chinese vaccination for secondary school students aged 16-17. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Myanmar

We are monitoring the situation in Myanmar and will soon be releasing data on attacks on education since the February coup.

Europe

Russian Federation

11 May 2021: In Kazan city, Tatarstan federal subject, a 17-year-old gunman and another aged 19 opened fire inside School Number 175, killing at least nine people, including a female teacher, and injuring 21. Police killed the oldest gunman and arrested the other, who is a former student of the school, and who described himself as “a god” on his Telegram account, and pledged to kill “a large amount of biomass” on the morning of the shooting. **Sources:** [Al Jazeera](#), [Euro News](#), [Garda](#), [The New Arab](#) and [UN News](#)

Middle East and North Africa

Algeria

17 May 2021: In Bordj Badji Mokhtar town and province, ten primary school teachers were tortured and raped inside their official accommodation by men armed with knives who also stole laptops, phones and cash. **Sources:** [Le Matin D’Algerie](#) and [Middle East Eye](#)

Iran

Around 7 May 2021: On the Zahedan-Khash road, Zahedan County, Sistan and Baluchestan, a university professor, reportedly on route to Zahedan for medical treatment for his wife, was injured when Iranian anti-narcotics police indiscriminately fired at his vehicle. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Israel

As reported on 24 May 2021: At least four schools were reportedly damaged in Israel during the recent conflict. **Source:** [UNICEF](#)

Occupied Palestinian Territories

As reported on 13 May 2021: In Tel al-Hawa neighbourhood, Gaza city, amidst the Israel-Hamas conflict, missiles launched by Israel struck a security location near the ICRC offices, damaging a nearby UNRWA school and a highschool. **Source:** [The Electronic Intifada](#)

17 May 2021: In Gaza city, an Israeli air attack was witnessed near a UNRWA school, where many people were taking shelter. **Source:** [Al Jazeera](#)

18 May 2021: In Gaza city, Israeli airstrikes demolished a six-storey building housing bookstores and educational centres used by the Islamic University and other colleges.* **Source:** [AP](#)

As reported on 24 May 2021: In Gaza city, bombardments by the Israel Defence Forces damaged 57 schools. **Source:** [UNICEF](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

27 May 2021: In the Shayr area, Al Hasakah governorate, a teacher was detained for conscription by Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) during a security campaign.* **Source:** [ACLEDD¹](#)

28 May 2021: At Akeirshi town, Ar Raqqa governorate, six teachers and ten students were arrested for conscription by SDF during a security campaign.* **Source:** [ACLEDD¹](#)

Yemen

27 May 2021: In Tuhatat city, Al Hudaydah governorate, a school was hit by a drone strike, injuring four children playing in the school playground.* **Source:** [CIMP](#)

The Americas

Brazil

04 May 2021: In Saudades town, Santa Catarina state, a nursery school was attacked by an 18-year-old man armed with a sword. He killed two teachers and three toddlers and severely injured a baby and himself. He was hospitalised but discharged on the 12th May and arrested. All schools in the city were shut for a week. **Sources:** [BBC](#), [BBC Brasil](#) and [G1](#)

Colombia

16 May 2021: In Carolina del Principe municipality, Antioquia department, a teacher at Institución Educativa Presbítero Julio Tamayo de Carolina del Príncipe was beaten at his home by two men. The motive is allegedly related to his involvement with the nationwide anti-government demonstrations. **Sources:** [ACLEDD¹](#), [Alerta Paisa](#) and [El Tiempo](#)

United States of America

06 May 2021: In Rigby city, Jefferson county, Idaho state, a sixth-grade female student wounded three people at the Rigby Middle School, after she pulled a handgun out of her backpack and opened fire. **Source:** [Fox News](#)

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.

This document is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of Insecurity Insight and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID, the U.S. Government, or Save the Children Federation, Inc.

Suggested citation: Insecurity Insight. 2021. Education in Danger Monthly News Brief, May 2021. Switzerland: Insecurity Insight.



¹ Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLEDD) [database attribution policy](#). Accessed 02 June 2021.