

Education in Danger

Monthly News Brief

FEBRUARY 2019

Attacks on education

The section aligns with the definition of attacks on education used by the Global Coalition to Protect Education under Attack (GCPEA) in [Education under Attack 2018](#).

Africa

Burkina Faso

01 February 2019: In Kabonga town, Est region, militants presumed to be from JNIM or ISGS burned down the town's primary school. **Sources:** [ACLED](#)¹ and [MENASTREAM](#)

03 February 2019: In Salmossi village, Sahel region, militants presumed to be from JNIM or ISGS burned down a school. No further details specified. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

03 February 2019: In Intissalatene village, Tollel Kaya area, militants presumed to be from JNIM or ISGS fired gunshots in the air and set fire to a school before stealing teachers motorbikes and escaping. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

04 February 2019: In Natiaboani village, militants presumed to be from JNIM or ISGS seized control of the village and burned down the village school before holding religious sermons and destroying a liquor store. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Cameroon

04 February 2019: In Soppo neighbourhood, Buea city, Southwest region, suspected separatists attacked the residence of the Regional Delegate for Secondary Education for the South West Region, setting her car on fire before escaping. **Source:** [Journal du Cameroun](#)

05 February 2019: In Babadjou town and commune, Bamboutos department, West province, dozens of suspected separatists set fire to the Zavion Bilingual High School and the car of the principal before ransacking several buildings. **Source:** [Cameroon Online](#)

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.

The [Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack](#) (GCPEA) provided technical guidance on definitions of attacks on education.

Data from the Education in Danger Monthly News Brief is available on [HDX](#) Insecurity Insight.

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16 February 2019: In Kumba city, Meme department, Southwest district, militants suspected to be separatists abducted 170 students – mostly under-18 girls – a teacher and a guard from an unnamed boarding school, forcing the institution to shut for an indefinite period. The day after, all victims were released amid rumours of ransoms being paid. **Source:** [Human Rights Watch](#)

South Africa

12 February 2019: In Cape Town city, Western Cape province, students and police clashed over water shortages on the Western Cape College of Nursing campus, resulting in police firing rubber bullets and stun grenades at students to disperse them. **Source:** [Daily Voice](#)

Sudan

06 February 2019 (DOA): In Khartoum, police used teargas and batons to disperse a group of graduates taking part in an anti-government demonstration at the University of Khartoum. **Source:** [Sudan Tribune](#)

12 February 2019: In Khartoum, at the call of the Sudanese Professionals Associations, a group of 16 lecturers and professors held a sit-in at the University of Khartoum to protest the excessive use of force against peaceful anti-government demonstrators. Security officials subsequently arrested them. **Source:** [Sudan Tribune](#)

Asia

India

10 February 2019: In Patiala city and district, Punjab state, contractual teachers of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan School and the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan School protested over a policy that requires them to work at a specific monthly salary for three years before being formally contracted into their jobs. At one point, a fight broke out between protesters and the police, prompting the latter to use water cannons to disperse the crowds, injuring 10 people. **Source:** [Daily News and Analysis](#)

13 February 2019: In Kakapora tehsil, Pulwama district, Jammu and Kashmir state, a bomb of unidentified origin exploded in a 10th Grade classroom of an unnamed school, injuring 25 students. **Source:** [KSL](#)

Indonesia

20 February 2019 (DOA): In Nduga regency, Papua province, army officials entered an unnamed school, prompting some students to run away in fear. Meanwhile, clashes between the Indonesian National Armed Forces and separatists forced more than 400 students to flee into the neighbouring regency of Jayawijaya. **Source:** [SBS News](#)

Middle-East and North Africa

Occupied Palestinian Territories

14 February 2019: In Abu Dis village, West Bank, IDF troops surrounded the al Quds University while classes were in session before firing tear gas and stun grenades at students, leaving seventeen with respiratory issues. The village was also attacked by IDF troops who shut down the entrances and exits. **Source:** [Ma'an News](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

17 February 2019: In Bamboling village, Maarrat al-Nu'man district, Idlib governorate, a missile fired by government forces landed near the Martyr Omar al Ulwan School and damaged its fence but did not injure anyone. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

Arrests, detentions and imprisoned

The section aligns with the definition of attacks on education used by the Global Coalition to Protect Education under Attack (GCPEA) in [Education under Attack 2018](#).

Africa

Sudan

12 February 2019: In Khartoum city, Khartoum state, government security forces entered the University of Khartoum campus and arrested fourteen professors who were peacefully protesting over food shortages and for the resignation of President Bashir. No charges have officially been pressed, and no indication has been given as to their release. **Source:** [Reuters](#)

Asia

Myanmar

13 February 2019: In Mandalay city, a court has sentenced seven students from the University of Yadanabon to five months in jail for their involvement in a peaceful protest to demand better security on campus. **Source:** [Myanmar Times](#)

Europe

Turkey

05 February 2019: In Istanbul city, the Istanbul 36th Heavy Penal Court sentenced another three academics to a suspended sentence of one year and three months imprisonment for their promotion of the 'Academics for Peace' petition calling on the Turkish government to end hostilities with the Kurdish population in the southeast. **Source:** [Ahval](#)

06 February 2019: In Istanbul city, the Istanbul 36th Heavy Penal Court gave a research assistant a deferred sentence of one year and three months imprisonment for her signing of the 'Academics for Peace' petition. **Source:** [bianet](#)

07 February 2019: In Istanbul city, the Istanbul 25th Heavy Penal Court sentenced a University professor to two years and six months imprisonment for his involvement with the 'Academics for Peace' petition. **Source:** [bianet](#)

13 February 2019: In Istanbul city, the Istanbul 36th Heavy Penal Court sentenced a further three academics to fifteen months in prison for their involvement with the 'Academics for Peace' petition. **Source:** [bianet](#)

21 February 2019: In Istanbul city, the Istanbul 33rd Heavy Penal Court sentenced thirteen academics to one year and ten months imprisonment and fourteen other academics to two years and three months imprisonment – each for their involvement with the 'Academics for Peace' petition. **Source:** [bianet](#)

27 February 2019: In Istanbul city, the Istanbul 37th Heavy Penal Court sentenced a further two academics to one year and three months imprisonment for their involvement with the 'Academics for Peace' petition. **Source:** [bianet](#)

Education in Danger safety, security and access incidents

Aid in Danger

These events go beyond the definition used by the GCPEA to cover a wider range of events that affect the provision of education including events perpetrated by students, private individuals and criminals as well as significant strike action or protests by students.

Africa

Sahel Region

28 February 2019: Insecurity across the Sahel region has led to the closure of nearly 2,000 schools in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, affecting 400,000 children and 10,050 teachers. All three countries have endorsed the 'Safe Schools Declaration' to protect children during armed conflict and made efforts to ensure large numbers of displaced children are integrated into new school systems. **Sources:** [UN-OCHA](#), [FMT](#), [OCHA](#) and [Thomson Reuters Foundation](#)

Burkina Faso

03 February 2019: In Siniena town, Banfora department, an attack on gendarmerie by unknown gunmen led to widespread school shutdowns the next day due to parents concern over the safety of their children. **Source:** [ACLED](#)

Malawi

25 February 2019: In Nkhata Bay city and district, Northern region, police arrested a teacher of the Mazembe Primary School for possessing an unlicensed firearm. **Source:** [All Africa](#)

Mali

In northern Mali, more than 500 schools remained shut due to the ongoing insecurity in the region. **Source:** [Thomson Reuters Foundation](#)

Niger

In Niger, over 1,000 schools remained shut due to ongoing attacks by extremists and persistent poverty across the Sahel region. **Source:** [Thomson Reuters Foundation](#)

Nigeria

February 2019: In Bama locality, Borno state, large population displacements have resulted in an unspecified IDP camp becoming overwhelmed with newly displaced people, local schools being unable to cope with the numbers of children, and poor living conditions for camp occupants. **Source:** [UN-OCHA](#)

South Africa

01 February 2019: In Mfuleni town, Western Cape province, students from Bardale Primary School threw stones at the Mfuleni primary school, smashing windows and damaging teachers'

cars. The action was in response to overcrowding in Cape Town's schools this year. **Source:** [ACLED¹](#)

05 February 2019: In Durban city, KwaZulu-Natal province, a student taking part in a protest demanding greater financial assistance for students on the campus of the Durban University of Technology (DUT) was killed by a private security guard who fired on a group of students with live ammunition. **Sources:** [News Click](#) and [News24](#)

11 February 2019: In Vanderbijlpark city, Gauteng province, a group of students from Vaal University of Technology were shot at with rubber bullets while participating in a national protest movement demanding greater financial assistance for students. **Source:** [IOL](#)

Sudan

02 February 2019: In Khashm el-Girba town, Kassala state, a Sudanese teacher – who was arrested by state security officials on 30 January 2019 in connection with anti-government protests in eastern Sudan – died while in detention allegedly due to poisoning and possibly after being severely beaten. **Sources:** [AP](#), [Eric Reeves](#) and [The New Arab](#)

Zimbabwe

31 January 2019: The Zimbabwe Teachers Association and the Progressive Teachers Union of Zimbabwe announced an unlimited nationwide strike of 100,000 teachers, with effect from 01 February 2019, over salaries. **Source:** [AP](#)

05 February 2019: In urban areas across Zimbabwe, riot police and public service inspectors have reportedly intimidated teachers attempting to launch a strike for better salaries. Similarly, in rural areas, ruling party activists have set up camps at schools in what is perceived by educators as acts of intimidation. Some teachers stayed at home, whereas others attended school but did not teach, amid fears of further intimidation. **Sources:** [Africa News](#) and [AP](#)

Europe

Belarus

11 February 2019: In Stowbtsy town, Minsk region, a teenager stabbed a female teacher at Stowbtsy School before stabbing and wounding two students who tried to defend the teacher. The teacher died from her injuries shortly after. The assailant subsequently entered a nearby classroom where he stabbed and killed another student. Two hours later, the perpetrator was detained outside the school premises. **Source:** [RFE RL](#)

Malta

04 February 2019: In Pembroke town, Northern Harbour district, Northern region, parents clashed with staff at the Pembroke Secondary School for unspecified reasons, as a result of which an assistant head and a learning support assistant were injured. **Sources:** [Malta Today](#) and [TVM](#)

Middle-East and North Africa

Syrian Arab Republic

General: In Idlib governorate, as HTS cemented its de facto control over the province by forcing

other rebel groups to surrender, INGOs withdrew aid and support for schools and hospitals, and several major donors cut funding to the area amid fears of aid diversion toward the terrorist group.

Source: [The Guardian](#)

General: In Idlib governorate, private universities have been forced to shut after refusing to be attached to the HTS-controlled council of higher education. **Source:** [The Guardian](#)

Tunisia

06 February 2019: In Tunis, months into a strike that has disrupted the provision of education across Tunisia, thousands of teachers continued to demonstrate to demand bonuses and improved working conditions, whilst calling on the Education Minister to step down. **Source:** [Alarabiya](#)

The Americas

Haiti

16 February 2019: As anti-government protests continued to sweep Haiti, schools remained closed. **Source:** [AP](#)

United States of America

12 February 2019: In Los Angeles city, California state, two computer hackers were arrested by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and charged with sending false shooting and bomb threats to hundreds of schools and other institutions in the US and Britain, forcing their closure. **Source:** [AP](#)

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