RUSSIA

The main threat to education came in the Caucasus, where schools were attacked and teachers and academics were murdered.\textsuperscript{1330}

CONTEXT

Teachers, academics and religious scholars in Russia have been targeted for assassination by suspected armed Islamist militants seeking to impose their religious views.

Vladimir Putin has held the political reins since December 1999, during which time the country faced increasing attacks by Islamist insurgents in the northern Caucasus. The militants’ objective was a regional emirate based on Sharia law.\textsuperscript{1331}

The issue of whether students should be allowed to wear headscarves was contentious in parts of Russia.\textsuperscript{1332} Official permission to wear a headscarf in school was granted by the government of Dagestan, a mainly Muslim republic, in September 2013, whereas in the nearby Stavrapol Region, the ban had been upheld by the Supreme Court five months earlier.\textsuperscript{1333}

Russia’s net primary enrolment was 93 per cent,\textsuperscript{1334} gross secondary enrolment was 89 per cent\textsuperscript{1335} and gross tertiary enrolment was 76 per cent (2009).\textsuperscript{1336} Adult literacy was 100 per cent (2010).\textsuperscript{1337}

ATTACKS ON SCHOOLS

From 2009 to 2012, at least three schools were attacked.\textsuperscript{1338} As noted below (in Military use of schools), two schools were attacked as an apparent response to their designated use by government forces.\textsuperscript{1339} In June 2009, militants reportedly fired grenades at a school in Grozny, Chechnya. The reasons were not known.\textsuperscript{1340}

Separately, at least four bomb and gun attacks in the vicinity of schools were identified in the North Caucasus.\textsuperscript{1341} In one incident, alleged terrorists exploded several bombs near School No.1 in Kizlyar, Dagestan, in March 2010, killing 12 people and injuring around 30; however, no students from the school were reported dead or injured.\textsuperscript{1342}

ATTACKS ON SCHOOL STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND OTHER EDUCATION PERSONNEL

During the period 2009-2012, five teachers were killed in Dagestan, several of them by suspected Islamist insurgents, the others by unidentified assailants, according to news reports.\textsuperscript{1343} In one case, a physical education teacher, opposed to extreme Islamist beliefs, was cut down by sub-machine gunfire as he left a mosque after praying, in Tsbari village, Tsuntin region, in June 2012.\textsuperscript{1344} In at least two cases, head teachers were reported to have been assassinated because they were against the wearing of headscarves or hijab at school.\textsuperscript{1345} In one of these incidents, a head teacher was shot dead in July 2011 by two assassins in front of his family in the courtyard of his home in the village of Sovyetskoye near the Azeri border, Dagestan.\textsuperscript{1346}

MILITARY USE OF SCHOOLS

Two schools were set aside for use as military bases during 2009-2012: in June 2012, suspected armed militants burned down one school and then attacked another in Tsyntuk village, Dagestan, apparently because government forces had earmarked them for use as bases for counter-insurgency security operations.\textsuperscript{1347}
ATTACKS ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Five academics and scholars were shot dead or killed in explosions by armed Islamist militants. In December 2010, a leading Kabardino-Balkaria scholar, Aslan Tsipinov, was killed by armed militants. His work on Adyghe national culture was seen by Islamic extremists as spreading paganism. In March 2012, a medical school director, Magomedrasul Gugurchunov, was killed in Makhachkala after receiving death threats from extremists in an attempt to force him to pay their extortion demands. Fear of armed Islamic militants in the North Caucasus caused academics to curtail their research.

ATTACKS ON EDUCATION IN 2013

In 2013, teachers continued to be targeted. On 4 March, it was reported that Magomed Biyarslanov, a teacher at an Islamic school in Karabudakhkentsky in Dagestan, died after being shot eight times in the chest. On 15 July, a teacher in the Tsumada district of Dagestan was killed by armed attackers wearing illegal military-style uniforms who arrived at his home, separated him from his family, then shot him several times at close range.

ENDNOTES RUSSIA

1330 This profile covers attacks on education in 2009-2012, with an additional section on attacks in 2013.
1332 Ibid., 17-18.
1333 “N.Caucasus region permits headscarves in schools,” RIA Novosti, 3 September 2013.


1341 “Russia says defuses car large car bomb in volatile south,” Reuters, 30 September 2010; “Tower blocks, school evacuated over south Russia car bomb,” RIA Novosti, 30 September 2010; “Policeman killed, four wounded, suspected militant detained in Russia’s Caucasus,” BBC Monitoring International Reports, 15 February 2010; “Police, Civilians Killed as Two Blasts Hit Town in South Russia,” RT News, 31 March 2010; and “Rebels in Dagestan eliminated 4 invaders,” 16 August 2012.

1342 “Police, Civilians Killed as Two Blasts Hit Town in South Russia,” RT News, 31 March 2010.


1350 Ibid., 17.


“Islamic school teacher killed in Dagestan,” Interfax, 4 March 2013.

“In Dagestan, primary school teacher shot dead,” Caucasian Knot, 16 July 2013; and “Murder of a teacher in Dagestan may involve militants,” Ria Novosti, 16 July 2013.