“Schools must be safe places of learning and development for all children. They should be zones of peace. Those who attack schools and hospitals should know that they will be held accountable.”

–Special Representative of the Secretary-General Radhika Coomaraswamy, Secretary-General’s 10th Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict, 2011

**Central African Republic**

This girl’s school was partially destroyed in an attack by an armed group in the Central African Republic. © 2009 Sven Torfinn.

In parts of the country in 2010, armed groups occupied several schools and abducted and killed teachers, according to UN reports.

**Afghanistan**

This Afghan youth’s school was damaged in a bombing that killed the principal and wounded another school employee in Nangarhar province, east of Kabul, Afghanistan. © 2011 AP Rahmat Gul.

In 2010, according to the UN, there were 197 education-related incidents in Afghanistan, including direct attacks that killed or wounded students and staff or damaged school buildings as well as threats and forced school closures. Pro-government forces, including international military forces, occupied at least five schools in 2010.

**Iraq**

In Basra, Iraq in 2003, the University of Basra Central Library was looted and burned within days of the British troops entering Basra with no attempt by the authorities to protect it.

**Our Vision**

We seek to establish a world in which all who wish to learn, teach and research, or all levels and in all forms of education, and all those who support them, can do so in environments of safety, dignity and equality free from fear, consistent with the principles of mutual understanding, peace, tolerance and academic freedom.

**Steering Committee**

GCPEA was founded in 2010 and is governed by a small number of organizations that volunteered for the Steering Committee: Council for Assisting Refugee Academics, Education Above All, Education International, Human Rights Watch, Save the Children, UNESCO and UNICEF.

**Affiliated Organizations**

Organizations at global, national and local levels that support the mission and goals of GCPEA are encouraged to join as affiliated organizations. For more information please visit our website: www.protectingeducation.org.
Education under Attack

Attacks on Education: Threats to rights and access to education for students, teachers, and other education personnel, as well as to education facilities.