

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

***Hundreds of schools were looted, damaged, and destroyed or used for military purposes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Armed parties also reportedly threatened, abducted, injured, and killed students and education personnel. Both boys and girls were recruited from schools or along school routes, and reports indicated that girls were taken specifically for sexual purposes.***

### **Context**

Already ongoing for more than two decades, conflict continued in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.<sup>678</sup> A new conflict began in the Greater Kasai region in April 2016, when tensions between the government and traditional chiefs led to the emergence of the Kamuina Nsapu militia.<sup>679</sup> This violence surged in 2017, with conflict also escalating in North and South Kivu and Tanganyika provinces.<sup>680</sup> The armed parties included the Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo (Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo) (FARDC) and more than 120 non-state armed groups.<sup>681</sup> Most armed groups were small. One of the largest remaining groups was the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda) (FDLR), which was estimated to have between 500 and 1,000 fighters in 2017.<sup>682</sup> The UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), which began its peacekeeping mission in 1999, also continued to operate in the country.<sup>683</sup>

As of August 2017, 3.8 million people were internally displaced throughout DRC.<sup>684</sup> State and non-state parties reportedly raped, sexually enslaved, and forcibly impregnated women and girls because of their ethnicity.<sup>685</sup> Non-state armed groups perpetrated the majority of reported sexual violence, although MONUSCO and foreign forces were also accused of sexual exploitation from 2015 through 2017.<sup>686</sup>

Conflict impeded access to education across DRC, and an estimated 2.9 million children were in urgent need of education at the end of 2016.<sup>687</sup> In the Tanganyika region, a resurgence of intercommunal tensions and military operations resulted in the destruction of more than 300 schools as of July 2017.<sup>688</sup> Also as of July 2017, UNICEF reported that damage to schools had forced 150,000 children out of school in the Kasai region.<sup>689</sup> The Education Cluster also reported that military use of educational institutions and other factors, including teachers forcibly recruited by militia, disrupted schooling, impeded girls' access to education and led to early marriages and pregnancies.<sup>690</sup>

According to a 2017 report by Child Soldiers International, child recruitment and a lack of access to education were mutually reinforcing. Forced conscription limited girls' access to education, while the inability to afford education led some girls to join armed groups instead.<sup>691</sup> Information collected by GCPEA indicated that girls who were abducted or recruited and raped, sometimes for months, often dropped out of school afterward.<sup>692</sup>

Reports of attacks on education, except child recruitment, were higher during the 2013-2017 reporting period than in the 2009-2013 period. This was possibly due to the resurgence of conflict in North and South Kivu and Tanganyika and the emergence of conflict in the Greater Kasai region, as well as strengthened monitoring and reporting of attacks on education. Attacks on education appeared to decline from 2013 to 2015, before rising significantly in 2016 and 2017.<sup>693</sup>

DRC endorsed the Safe Schools Declaration in July 2016.

### **Attacks on schools**

Non-state armed groups reportedly shelled, burned, and looted hundreds of schools during the reporting period, many in the Kasai and Kasai-Central provinces, and in the Tanganyika region. Reports indicated that 2017 saw the highest number of attacks on schools of the reporting period. Attacks on schools occurred at similar rates in 2013, 2014, and 2015, with dozens of attacks each year, but 2016 saw a sharp spike. There were at least 639 verified and unverified attacks on schools reported in the Greater Kasai region in 2016 and 2017.<sup>694</sup> Of these, the UN verified 51 in 2016 and 396 in 2017.<sup>695</sup>

Non-state armed groups perpetrated most of the attacks on schools, and they used different methods, depending on their location. While perpetrators in the east used heavy weapons such as mines and rockets, perpetrators in the Greater Kasai region mainly used light weapons.<sup>696</sup>

During 2013, various non-state armed actors in the east, including the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), Alliance des patriotes pour un Congo libre et souverain (People's Alliance for a Free and Sovereign Congo) (APCLS), Force de résistance patriotique d'Ituri (Front for Patriotic Resistance in Ituri) (FRPI), March 23 Movement (M23), and Nduma Defence of Congo (NDC), reportedly looted, shelled, and burned schools. The UN verified 95 attacks on schools, including the looting of 21 by the ADF in Beni, North Kivu, and the looting and damage of 10 by the FRPI in Irumu, Ituri.<sup>697</sup> Examples included the following:

- A report published by Save the Children included an incident on February 27, 2013, in which bombs hit a school during clashes between the FARDC and the APCLS because the IDPs inside the building were mistaken for enemy soldiers. Twelve people were killed and four students were injured. It was unclear if the school was hit, but it was reportedly later looted.<sup>698</sup>
- According to information gathered and verified by the UN, M23 shelled a school in Goma during an attack in August 2013.<sup>699</sup>
- Human Rights Watch reported that, in August 2013, NDC fighters raided a school in Pinga, destroying equipment and an office. Reports indicated that they also forced people to flee, although it was not clear if these people were school children or teachers.<sup>700</sup>

Attacks on schools in the east appeared to decline from 2014 to 2015. Reported totals of attacks on schools included the following:

- In 2014, according to UN-verified information, the FARDC, ADF, FDLR, the Union des Patriotes Congolais pour la Paix (Union of Congolese Patriots), Raia Mutomboki, and other armed groups attacked 22 schools, including 10 that were looted after being used for military purposes.<sup>701</sup>
- The UN also verified 22 attacks on schools in the east during 2015. This included 10 schools destroyed by the Twa self-defense group during clashes with members of the Luba ethnic group in Tanganyika. The Nyatura, an umbrella term for Congolese Hutu armed groups, destroyed four schools, and other armed groups destroyed eight. The locations of these attacks were not indicated.<sup>702</sup>

Attacks on schools rose again in 2016, when the UN verified 51 incidents targeting primary and secondary educational institutions. Identified perpetrators included Twa militia (13), ADF (8), Mai-Mai Simba (4), Mai-Mai Raia Mutomboki (4), and the FRPI (3).<sup>703</sup> Conflict broke out in the Greater Kasai region in August 2016, and violence surged in the Tanganyika region in September of that year. Violence also continued in the Kivus. For example, local civil society and UN agencies reported that on October 15, 2016, two teachers and two students were killed by a rocket strike that hit a school in Beni, North Kivu, during fighting between the FARDC and Corps du Christ, an armed religious sect.<sup>704</sup>

Different agencies reported the following totals of attacks on schools across the different DRC regions in 2016:

- According to information provided by an international humanitarian organization, approximately 87 schools were attacked, set on fire, or looted in Kasai-Central by either the FARDC or militias between August and December 2016.<sup>705</sup>
- According to Amnesty International, civil society organizations and local leaders reported that more than 150 schools were destroyed by fires during clashes between the Batwa and Luba communities in the Tanganyika region.<sup>706</sup>
- In North Kivu, one international humanitarian agency found that, of 30 schools included in an intervention, non-state armed groups attacked approximately 10 of them more than four times between 2015 and 2017. Another 10 were attacked at least three times.<sup>707</sup>

Attacks on schools continued to escalate in 2017, both in eastern DRC and the Greater Kasai region. Non-state armed groups were responsible for most of these attacks.<sup>708</sup> An international humanitarian organization reported that there were nearly 100 attacks on schools in the east as of October 2017. This included one school in North Kivu, 68 schools in South Kivu, and 29 schools in Tanganyika.<sup>709</sup> In the Kasai region, 396 attacks on schools were verified in 2017.<sup>710</sup> Examples of attacks in both the east and the Kasai region included the following:

- According to *Reuters*, during heavy fighting between the military and militia members on June 22, 2017, a mortar attack on a school injured at least three students who were sitting for their exams in Beni, North Kivu.<sup>711</sup>
- In October 2017, the UN verified that a FARDC rocket hit a school in Butembo, North Kivu, killing two girls and two teachers and injuring four children.<sup>712</sup>

### **Attacks on school students, teachers, and other education personnel**

The FARDC and various non-state armed groups reportedly beat, abducted, and killed several dozen students and teachers during the period from 2013 to 2017. For example, an international humanitarian agency found that 4 percent of students and 8 percent of teachers who were beneficiaries of a program implemented in Masisi territory, North Kivu, were attacked between 2015 and 2017.<sup>713</sup> Teachers and students were also killed in crossfire. The number of students and educators harmed was higher than the number reported in *Education under Attack 2014*, which reported only two incidents of attacks on students or education personnel.

Most of these attacks occurred at the end of the reporting period. Indeed, only one case of an attack on a teacher was reported during the first three years. On October 26, 2013, a Hutu primary school director was killed near the village of Kavere during attacks by Raia Mutomboki in three villages in Masisi territory, North Kivu.<sup>714</sup>

Beginning in 2016, attacks on students, teachers, and other education personnel were reported in both eastern DRC and the Greater Kasai region, including the following:

- Between August 2016 and May 2017, five education inspectors were killed in Kasai-Central.<sup>715</sup>
- As of June 8, 2017, an unknown number of teachers were attacked while transporting test sheets for students.<sup>716</sup>
- Militia members slapped a school inspector who was on his way to deliver school exams on or before May 2, 2017, reportedly in response to the fact that he was providing education in the areas under their control.<sup>717</sup>
- Men armed with machetes reportedly stopped a team from delivering exams to the village of Tshisuku and used their weapons to strike the head of the team on or before May 2, 2017.<sup>718</sup>
- Suspected militiamen temporarily abducted a team of education personnel that was traveling to Luiza on or before April 30, 2017. The team paid the militiamen to release them.<sup>719</sup>
- According to the UN and the Education Cluster, the Kamuina Nsapu militia attacked a truck delivering exam materials in Kazumba territory, Kasai-Central province, on April 30, 2017. The assailants killed three school inspectors, two of whom were women.<sup>720</sup>

### **Military use of schools**

Government soldiers and armed groups reportedly used schools for military positions and lodging, and looted them for resources such as firewood. The length of military occupation documented by Human Rights Watch ranged from days to months.<sup>721</sup> Military use was also reported at schools in the Greater Kasai region toward the end of the reporting period. Reports of military use were more common than in the period covered in *Education under Attack 2014*, but it was not clear whether this finding was due to an actual rise in instances of military use or to better monitoring and reporting.

The UN verified 25 incidents of military use of schools in 2013, including 13 cases by the FARDC.<sup>722</sup> A variety of parties other parties, including M23, FDLR, Nyatura groups, and Raia Mutomboki, were also responsible, according to Human Rights Watch.<sup>723</sup> Military use included the occupation of schools as strategic points and training grounds for varying lengths of time. For example:

- Human Rights Watch documented the occupation of a primary school in Kashenda village by government armed forces for 10 months starting in November 2012, although soldiers said they were positioned there to “secure the school.”<sup>724</sup>
- In March 2013, Nyatura combatants spent two nights in one school and looted it before leaving, according to Human Rights Watch.<sup>725</sup>

- In June 2013, the M23 used both a primary school and a former kindergarten in Chengerero, North Kivu, to train combatants, according to Human Rights Watch.<sup>726</sup>
- Human Rights Watch reported that, between November 2012 and at least July 2013, the FARDC used school grounds at the Institut Bweremana in Minova, conducting military parades and training exercises.<sup>727</sup>

Military use was less commonly reported in 2014, with the UN verifying about half as many cases (12) as it had previous year. The UN also reported that in Shabunda territory, South Kivu, the FARDC and Raia Mutomboki used four and six schools respectively, which were later destroyed, looted, or had their materials burned during fighting in April 2014.<sup>728</sup>

Military use continued in 2015, but successful advocacy led to armed groups vacating some schools. The UN verified information indicating that armed groups used 10 schools in 2015.<sup>729</sup> The FARDC reportedly used another 20 schools but vacated 13 following UN advocacy.<sup>730</sup>

Military use continued to be reported in eastern DRC throughout 2016. The UN verified the military use of 19 schools, more than half of which were occupied by the FARDC.<sup>731</sup> In a study conducted in 2016 by an international humanitarian agency, the presence of an armed group at a school was the most common abuse: 29 percent of the 30 schools surveyed reported that armed actors entered classrooms during school hours.<sup>732</sup> An international humanitarian agency reported several examples of military use, including the following:

- Throughout the year, government security forces and armed groups reportedly occupied and partially damaged schools in North Kivu. These incidents occurred in at least four villages in Masisi territory, three villages in Nyiragongo territory, and two other villages.<sup>733</sup>
- In August 2016, the Mai Nyatura reportedly occupied Kishisha Primary School in Rutshuru territory.<sup>734</sup>
- An armed group attempted to occupy Mwandja Primary School in October 2016. The exact location of the school was unreported.<sup>735</sup>

In 2016 and 2017, there were also reports that military use was occurring in the Greater Kasai region:

- According to the UN, the FARDC used four schools in the Kasai provinces at some point between September 2016 and June 2017, but left the schools following advocacy by the UN.<sup>736</sup>
- As of May 11, 2017, the Education Cluster reported that the military had occupied three to eight schools in Kananga, Kasai-Central province, for an unknown duration since the start of the conflict in the Greater Kasai region in August 2016.<sup>737</sup>

### ***Child recruitment at, or en route to or from, school***

Anecdotal reports indicated that non-state armed groups in the eastern part of the country targeted students for recruitment. They reportedly abducted students at school or along school routes, including for sexual purposes, as described in the following section. GCPEA found a similar number of reports of child recruitment from schools or along school routes in the 2013-2017 and 2009-2013 periods. Some parents reportedly stopped sending their children to school for fear that armed groups would recruit them, according to the US State Department.<sup>738</sup>

Incidents of child recruitment included the following:

- According to MONUSCO, between January 2012 and August 2013, Nyatura groups recruited 185 boys and 5 girls, 34 of whom were under 15 years of age. A Nyatura recruiter told MONUSCO that they were commanded to recruit “older boys” from schools. It was not clear what “older” meant.<sup>739</sup>
- On September 27, 2013, according to Human Rights Watch, NDC fighters abducted approximately 20 students from a primary school in Butemure, Walikale territory, North Kivu. They beat those trying to flee with sticks and bayonets, seriously injuring six students.<sup>740</sup>
- MONUSCO reported that the FDLR was responsible for the abduction of five children while on their way to school between January 1, 2012, and August 31, 2013.<sup>741</sup>
- Human Rights Watch reported a pattern of recruitment in February 2013, during which the FDLR recruited teachers and students from schools in Mpati territory.<sup>742</sup>

- On an unknown day in July 2013, the FDLR kidnapped 10 boys and three girls from the Bumbasha Institute, a secondary school in Rutshuru. All abducted children were reportedly forced to join the FDLR as combatants or forced laborers.<sup>743</sup>
- According to an international humanitarian organization, in 2014 and 2015, 51 school children were recruited from 12 schools the organization supported in unidentified provinces throughout the country. Thirteen of these children were later returned.<sup>744</sup>

### ***Sexual violence by armed parties at, or en route to or from, school***

Sexual violence by armed parties affected girls and women in DRC, including at school. An international humanitarian organization found that several out of 30 schools surveyed reported that students were subjected to sexual violence, including abduction and forced marriage, by armed actors along school routes.<sup>745</sup> GCPEA identified more incidents of sexual violence in the context of education in 2013-2017 than in 2009-2013. It was unclear whether this increase was due to stronger monitoring and reporting or to an intensification of conflict.

Both military personnel and members of non-state armed groups reportedly targeted girls at schools for rape, forcing them to leave their classrooms or abducting them on the route to or from school. For example:

- Human Rights Watch reported in 2015 that M23 forced male students to bring female classmates to them.<sup>746</sup>
- Human Rights Watch reported that, on an unspecified date before June 2013, government soldiers caught a 16-year-old girl student and her female classmate while they were fleeing, but still on school grounds, and raped both girls.<sup>747</sup>
- In July 2013, a female teacher in Rutshuru territory told Human Rights Watch that M23 fighters came to her school three to four times per month and took girls away to rape them.<sup>748</sup>
- The Education Cluster reported on July 31, 2017, that Twa militia men reportedly abducted and raped three girls from a primary school in the Kabalo area.<sup>749</sup>
- The Education Cluster reported that on an unspecified date before July 31, 2017, Bantu militiamen abducted and raped eight girls from a primary school on the Nyunzu-Manono axis over the course of three months.<sup>750</sup>
- According to the Education Cluster, on an unspecified date before July 31, 2017, in the process of robbing a primary school in Manono town, an unidentified militia abducted and raped six school girls for over two months.<sup>751</sup>

### ***Attacks on higher education***

Police and other government security forces reportedly killed and injured nearly 100 student protesters from 2013-2017. Protest-related violence, which was the only reported type of attack on higher education students and institutions, took place primarily in Kinshasa. There were more attacks on higher education in the current reporting period than in the 2009-2013 period, when only two such incidents were reported. However, the increase may have been due to improved monitoring and reporting of attacks on higher education.<sup>752</sup>

GCPEA identified reports of six incidents in which police used excessive violence against student protestors, which included the following:

- According to *University World News*, witnesses reported that in February 2013, after student protests at the Institut Supérieur de Développement Rural in Lubao turned violent and students threw stones, police opened fire on the crowd, killing two students and injuring seven others.<sup>753</sup>
- *Reuters* reported that in January 2015, during several days of demonstrations near the University of Kinshasa, police fired shots into the air amid thousands of students protesting President Kabila.<sup>754</sup> In the midst of these protests, on January 21, 2015, police also shot teargas into students' dormitory rooms at the University of Kinshasa, according to Human Rights Watch.<sup>755</sup> According to FIDH, the violence killed at least 42 people. The authorities, on the other hand, claimed the death toll was five.<sup>756</sup> Human Rights Watch reported that at least 6 of those killed were students.<sup>757</sup>

- In November 2016, regional news sources stated that approximately 20 students at the Higher Institute of Applied Technology in Kinshasa were injured during protests against higher university fees. The same sources reported that the police shot students and fired teargas into classrooms during the protests. The police denied using lethal weapons.<sup>758</sup>
- According to Human Rights Watch, military intelligence officers arrested Ben Tshimanga, a student at Kinshasa's Institut Supérieur des Techniques Médicales, on July 20, 2017, likely for his affiliation with an opposition political party. Students protested his arrest that evening, but they were reportedly dispersed by government security forces, who shot live bullets into the air.<sup>759</sup>
- The next day, July 21, 2017, an even larger group of students demonstrated outside the university's administrative building. Some of these students turned violent, throwing rocks and burning nearby vehicles. Human Rights Watch indicated that the police responded with teargas and live bullets, which hit several students. The same source reported that police beat and arrested many more students.<sup>760</sup>

<sup>678</sup> "Crisis in North Kivu," *IRIN*, July 10, 2012. Human Rights Watch, "DR Congo: Chronology," August 21, 2009.

<sup>679</sup> International Crisis Group, *Kamuina Nsapu Insurgency Adds to Dangers in DR Congo* (New York: International Crisis Group, 2017).

<sup>680</sup> OCHA, "Democratic Republic of the Congo-Overview," November 2017, p. 1.

<sup>681</sup> "DR Congo: New 'Kivu Security Tracker' Maps Eastern Violence," Human Rights Watch news release, December 7, 2017.

<sup>682</sup> For further information on many of the armed parties in DRC, please see "The Eastern Congo," Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), October 2016. Elsa Buchanan, "Battle for control of the DRC: Who are the Raia Mutomboki?" *International Business Times*, October 29, 2015. Human Rights Watch, "Our School Became the Battlefield," pp. 10-12. "Armed groups in eastern DRC," *IRIN*, October 31, 2013.

<sup>683</sup> "About," MONUSCO, <https://monusco.unmissions.org/en/about>.

<sup>684</sup> "DR Congo tops list of most newly displaced people in first half year," Norwegian Refugee Council news release, August 16, 2017.

<sup>685</sup> UN Security Council, "Report of the Secretary-General," S/2015/203, para. 24.

<sup>686</sup> UN General Assembly and Security Council, "Report of the Secretary-General," A/70/836-S/2016/360, para. 57. UN, *Update on Allegations of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and Special Political Missions*, May 17, 2016, p. 1. "DR Congo: UN peacekeepers face fresh sexual abuse claims," *BBC News*, April 28, 2017.

<sup>687</sup> OCHA, *2017 Humanitarian Needs Overview – Democratic Republic of Congo (2017 Besoins Aperçu des Humanitaires - République Démocratique du Congo)* (Kinshasa, DRC: 2016), p. 3.

<sup>688</sup> Information shared by the Education Cluster via email on July 31, 2017.

<sup>689</sup> "150,000 children," UNICEF.

<sup>690</sup> Information shared by the Education Cluster via email on July 31, 2017. Information shared by a UN respondent via email, September 2017.

<sup>691</sup> Child Soldiers International, *What the Girls Say* (London: Child Soldiers International, 2017), pp. 17-19.

<sup>692</sup> Information shared by an international humanitarian organization via email on July 31, 2017.

<sup>693</sup> Information shared by the Education Cluster via email on August 2, 2017.

<sup>694</sup> "150,000 children," UNICEF. Information shared by a UN respondent on September 18, 2017.

<sup>695</sup> Information shared by a UN respondent on February 2, 2018.

<sup>696</sup> Information shared by a UN respondent on September 18, 2017.

<sup>697</sup> United Nations General Assembly and Security Council, "Report of the Secretary-General," A/68/878-S/2014/339, para. 65.

<sup>698</sup> Save the Children, *Attacks on Education: The impact of conflict and grave violations on children's futures* (London: Save the Children, 2013), p. 13.

<sup>699</sup> UN Security Council, "Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo," S/2014/453, June 30, 2014, para. 48.

<sup>700</sup> Human Rights Watch, "Our School Became the Battlefield," p. 25.

<sup>701</sup> UN General Assembly and Security Council, "Report of the Secretary-General: Children and armed conflict," A/69/926-S/2015/409, para. 63.

<sup>702</sup> UN General Assembly and Security Council, "Report of the Secretary-General," A/70/836-S/2016/360, para. 49.

<sup>703</sup> UN Secretary-General, "Report of the Secretary-General," A/72/361-S/2017/821, para. 67.

<sup>704</sup> "UNESCO and UNICEF honor the memory of teachers and students killed in North Kivu (DRC)" ("L'UNESCO et l'UNICEF saluent la mémoire des enseignants et élèves tués au Nord Kivu [RDC]"), UNESCO press release, October 24, 2016. "DRC: tensions in Butembo" ("RDC: tensions à Butembo"), *RFI Afrique*, October 16, 2016.

<sup>705</sup> Information shared by an international humanitarian organization via email on November 16, 2017.

<sup>706</sup> Amnesty International, *World Report 2016/2017*, Congo chapter.

<sup>707</sup> Information shared by an international humanitarian agency, November 2017.

<sup>708</sup> Information shared by an international humanitarian organization via email, December 14, 2017.

<sup>709</sup> Information shared by an international humanitarian organization via email, December 14, 2017.

<sup>710</sup> Information shared by a UN respondent, February 9, 2018.

<sup>711</sup> "Heavy fighting in northeastern Congo, several wounded-residents," *Reuters*, June 22, 2017.

<sup>712</sup> UN Secretary-General, "Report of the Secretary-General," A/72/361-S/2017/821, para. 67.

<sup>713</sup> Information shared by an international humanitarian organization via email, November 2017.

<sup>714</sup> Human Rights Watch, "Our School Became the Battlefield," p. 23.

<sup>715</sup> Information shared by the Global Education Cluster via email on August 2, 2017.

- <sup>716</sup> Information shared by the Global Education Cluster via email on August 2, 2017.
- <sup>717</sup> Information shared by the Global Education Cluster via email on August 2, 2017.
- <sup>718</sup> Information shared by the Global Education Cluster via email on August 2, 2017.
- <sup>719</sup> Information shared by the Global Education Cluster via email on August 2, 2017.
- <sup>720</sup> UN Security Council, "Report of the Secretary-General," S/2017/565, para. 16. Information shared by the Education Cluster via email on August 2, 2017.
- <sup>721</sup> Human Rights Watch, "Our School Became the Battlefield," p. 30.
- <sup>722</sup> UN General Assembly and Security Council, "Report of the Secretary-General," A/68/878-S/2014/339, para. 65.
- <sup>723</sup> Human Rights Watch, "Our School Became the Battlefield," p. 27.
- <sup>724</sup> Human Rights Watch, "Our School Became the Battlefield," pp. 30-31.
- <sup>725</sup> Human Rights Watch, "Our School Became the Battlefield," p. 29.
- <sup>726</sup> Human Rights Watch, "Our School Became the Battlefield," p. 31.
- <sup>727</sup> Human Rights Watch, "Our School Became the Battlefield," p. 31.
- <sup>728</sup> UN General Assembly and Security Council, "Report of the Secretary-General," A/69/926-S/2015/409, para. 63.
- <sup>729</sup> UN General Assembly and Security Council, "Report of the Secretary-General," A/70/836-S/2016/360, para. 50.
- <sup>730</sup> UN General Assembly and Security Council, "Report of the Secretary-General," A/70/836-S/2016/360, para. 50.
- <sup>731</sup> UN Secretary-General, "Report of the Secretary-General," A/72/361-S/2017/821, para. 68.
- <sup>732</sup> Information shared by an international humanitarian organization via email, November 2017.
- <sup>733</sup> Information provided by an international humanitarian organization on January 27, 2017.
- <sup>734</sup> Information provided by an international humanitarian organization on January 27, 2017.
- <sup>735</sup> Information provided by an international humanitarian organization on January 27, 2017.
- <sup>736</sup> UN Security Council, "Report of the Secretary-General," S/2017/565, para. 48.
- <sup>737</sup> Information shared by the Global Education Cluster via email on August 2, 2017.
- <sup>738</sup> US State Department et al., "Country Reports 2015: Democratic Republic of the Congo," p. 29.
- <sup>739</sup> MONUSCO, "Child Recruitment by Armed Groups in DRC From January 2012 to August 2013," October 2013, p. 9, as cited in Human Rights Watch, "Our School Became the Battlefield," pp. 21-22.
- <sup>740</sup> Human Rights Watch, "Our School Became the Battlefield," p. 17.
- <sup>741</sup> MONUSCO, "Child Recruitment by Armed Groups in DRC from January 2012 to August 2013," October 2013, p. 12.
- <sup>742</sup> Human Rights Watch, "Our School Became the Battlefield," p. 21.
- <sup>743</sup> Human Rights Watch, "Our School Became the Battlefield," p. 21.
- <sup>744</sup> Information provided by an international humanitarian organization on January 27, 2017 and in November 2017.
- <sup>745</sup> Information shared by an international humanitarian organization via email in November 2017.
- <sup>746</sup> Human Rights Watch, "Our School Became the Battlefield," pp. 23.
- <sup>747</sup> Human Rights Watch, "Our School Became the Battlefield," pp. 23.
- <sup>748</sup> Human Rights Watch, "Our School Became the Battlefield," p. 22.
- <sup>749</sup> Information shared by the Education Cluster via email on July 31, 2017.
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- <sup>754</sup> Aaron Ross, "Protests, calls for respect of constitution in Congo election row," *Reuters*, January 20, 2015.
- <sup>755</sup> "DR Congo: Deadly Crackdown on Protests," Human Rights Watch news release, January 24, 2015.
- <sup>756</sup> "DRC protesters killed in police crackdown," *Al Jazeera*, January 21, 2015.
- <sup>757</sup> "DR Congo: Deadly Crackdown on Protests."
- <sup>758</sup> "20 Congolese students injured in clashes with Kinshasa police during protest," *Africanews*, November 9, 2016. "5 DRC students shot in clashes with police," *News24*, November 10, 2016.
- <sup>759</sup> Ida Sawyer, "Crackdown on Students, Opposition as Government Blames Them for Kinshasa Attacks," *Human Rights Watch Live Updates*, August 2, 2017.
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