COLOMBIA

Despite the government reaching a peace agreement with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People’s Army in 2016, attacks on schools, education personnel, and higher education remained at a level similar to the 2013-2017 reporting period. In the most affected departments, violence and landmines around schools also prevented thousands of students from attending classes.

Context

The Colombian government’s 52-year armed conflict with the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People’s Army) (FARC-EP) officially ended in 2016 when the two sides signed a peace agreement. However, violence continued and even intensified in some areas in subsequent years as other armed groups fought for control over natural resources and drug trafficking routes in areas formerly controlled by the FARC-EP. The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) reported 36 massacres in 2019, the highest number reported since 2014; OHCHR also documented 115 and 108 killings of human rights defenders in 2018 and 2019 respectively, including those defending Afro-Colombian and indigenous rights. Non-governmental organizations recorded yet higher numbers of assassinations of human rights defenders and social leaders in 2018 and 2019.

Non-state armed groups continued to pose a risk for children, as evidenced by incidents of killing and maiming of children, as well as their recruitment and use by such groups in 2018 and 2019. These groups included the Ejército de Liberación Nacional (National Liberation Army) (ELN), the Ejército Populare de Liberación (People’s Liberation Army) (EPL), groups that emerged from the demobilized FARC-EP, known as “FARC-EP dissident groups,” and successor groups to the paramilitaries that demobilized in the early 2000s, such as the Autodefensas Gaitanistas de Colombia (Gaitanist Self-Defense Forces of Colombia) (AGC). After the bilateral ceasefire between the ELN and the government came to an end, the ELN bombed a police academy in Bogotá on January 17, 2019, killing 21 police cadets, and leading President Iván Duque Márquez to end peace talks with the armed group.

Between January and December 2018, conflict and violence displaced 145,000 Colombians, an increase over past years; the Colombian government estimates the total number of people displaced due to conflict since 1985 as nearly eight million. Sexual violence and the sexual exploitation of women and children was also present in the conflict during the reporting period; in 2018, the Alliance for Colombian Childhood, of which Save the Children is a member, found that Afro-Colombian and indigenous children were disproportionately affected, as were migrant children from Venezuela. The UN verified nine incidents of sexual violence against girls, perpetrated by FARC-EP dissidents and the AGC, in 2018.

The crisis in neighboring Venezuela also affected education in Colombia. Nearly 770,000 Venezuelans entered Colombia in 2018, approximately 20 percent of whom were under the age of 18. The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) reported that schools along the Venezuelan border in areas such as Cúcuta experienced a 50 percent increase in students arriving from Venezuela between 2018 and 2019, causing significant strain on existing capacity. Meanwhile, Human Rights Watch found that out-of-school Venezuelan children living in Catatumbo region, Norte de Santander department, were at a heightened risk of recruitment into armed groups.

In late 2018, university students and staff, as well as primary and secondary school teachers and their supporters, went on strike to demand education budget reforms and government actions against armed groups that targeted teachers and social leaders. Strikes led to the closure of 32 universities. University students also protested in 2019, on certain campuses, over corruption, perceived unmet promises for increasing the education budget, and alleged abuses by the police against education-related protesters.

Attacks on schools

Over the 2017-2019 reporting period, GCPEA collected reports of at least 40 attacks on schools, primarily in rural areas. After a slight rise in reported incidents from 2017 to 2018, reports of attacks on schools appeared to decline in 2019. The UN verified 21 attacks against schools from July 2016 to June 2019; it remained unclear how many of those attacks
overlapped with reports of attacks collected by GCPEA. Where attribution was possible, the UN attributed the attacks against schools to the AGC, FARC-EP dissidents, the ELN, and national armed forces. The UN also reported that confrontations between armed groups and explosives placed in the vicinity of schools led to the suspension of classes in ten departments, affecting over 52,000 students between July 2016 and June 2019.

In *Education under Attack 2018*, which covered 2013-2017, GCPEA collected 31 reports of attacks on schools. In 2017, GCPEA collected at least 15 reports of attacks on schools; these included four attacks covered in *Education under Attack 2018*, as well as reported attacks identified after publication. Examples of newly identified attacks included:

- In April 2017, students were reportedly caught in crossfire between state armed forces and the ELN while attending classes in Monte Tarra, Norte de Santander department, according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). No injuries or deaths among the students were reported; however, teachers suspended classes and 49 families, including 26 girls and 29 boys, fled the area.

- In confrontations near a school in Vallenato, Nariño department, armed groups reportedly destroyed the boat designated for student transport to and from school, in late August 2017, according to OCHA. As a result, the Municipal Secretary of Education announced the suspension of classes as a protection measure, affecting approximately 250 students.

- On September 20, 2017, the National Army reportedly located and deactivated an anti-personnel mine located five meters from a sports field and 100 meters from the Florida School in Orito, Putumayo department. According to local media, 15 students attended the rural school.

In 2018, GCPEA collected 20 reports of attacks on schools. This was a slight increase compared with attacks reported for 2017.

The Coalition Against the Involvement of Children and Youth in Armed Conflict in Colombia (COALICO) documented 21 attacks on, or occupations of, schools, in 2018, 13 of which occurred in Norte de Santander department, two each in Nariño and Valle del Cauca departments, and one each in Cauca, Chocó, Huila, and Putumayo departments; COALICO noted that this constituted an increase compared to 2017, when 16 events were recorded. In 2018, the UN verified 13 attacks on schools and personnel in Arauca, Chocó, Nariño, Norte de Santander and Valle del Cauca departments, perpetrated by FARC-EP dissidents and unidentified non-state armed groups. NRC also reported that 26 landmines and explosive remnants were located near schools, which left 3,459 children unable to attend classes. Attacks and a general climate of insecurity also caused at least 80 educational facilities to close in Catatumbo region, Norte de Santander department, out of fear of violence, and forced 44,829 students and 2,285 teachers nationwide to suspend classes during the first semester of 2018. It remains unclear whether any of the incidents reported by COALICO, the UN, or NRC overlap with the incidents GCPEA compiled for 2018.

The reports GCPEA compiled for 2018 included 13 instances of explosives at or near schools, three clashes between armed groups near schools, and five cases of vandalism, examples of which were:

- On February 1, 2018, National Army troops reportedly deactivated an improvised explosive device (IED) planted in front of a school in Santa Rita Iró, Chocó department, according to local media. Confrontations between the ELN and the AGC had recently occurred in the region.

- On February 1 and 2, 2018, NRC reported that in El Tarra, Norte de Santander department, crossfire occurred over a school while children were in the building.

- On July 27, 2018, a grenade detonated in a classroom of a primary school in the port city of Tumaco, Nariño department, according to Human Rights Watch. The explosion damaged part of the roof and door, though children were not present at the time of the attack; after the attack, Human Rights Watch documented that some students were temporarily attending another institution.

- In San Andrés de Cuerquia, Antioquia department, FARC-EP dissidents reportedly painted the group’s name on the outside walls of schools, on April 25, 2018, according to *El Colombiano*.

- The mayor of Hacarí, Norte de Santander department, told a local media source that the placement of anti-personnel mines near schools and on roads close to schools had interrupted classes four times in the first half of
2018. Local media reported that the mines were likely put in place during confrontations between the EPL and the ELN.625

- NRC reported that on July 4, 2018, an armed attack led to the serious damage of La Pacheca primary school in Catatumbo region, Norte de Santander department.626

During 2019, in Cauca627 and Norte de Santander628 departments, confrontations between armed groups forced families to flee and schools to close, according to OCHA. That same year in Norte de Santander629 and Antioquia630 departments, landmines near schools prevented children from attending classes.

GCPEA documented at least nine reported attacks on schools in 2019.631 Reports included four instances of explosive devices, two clashes between armed groups near or in schools, and one instance of vandalism. Examples included:

- On February 5, 2019, a primary school teacher stepped on an anti-personnel mine while retrieving a soccer ball his students had kicked off the school grounds in Catatumbo region, Norte de Santander department. Human Rights Watch reported that the teacher was hospitalized and lost his foot.632
- Local media reported that, in May 2019, FARC-EP dissidents allegedly painted the group’s name on a school bus in Panamá de Arauca, Arauca department, preventing students from attending school, as reported by local media.633
- On July 9, 2019, during confrontations between the National Army and FARC-EP dissidents, a school was reportedly shot at in Morales, Cauca department, resulting in the closure of several area schools and affecting 270 children, according to local media.634
- The National Army found 111 explosive devices near the La Selva school, in Cajibío, Cauca department, in April 2019. The devices, which were safely defused, had placed 60 schoolchildren at risk. At the time of reports from local media, authorities had not identified the party responsible for the attack.635

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

Between 2017 and 2019, GCPEA compiled at least 51 reports of attacks on school students, teachers, and other education personnel, although this may be an undercount since attacks on students and educators are often underreported. As in the previous reporting period, non-state armed groups killed and threatened teachers for their involvement in teachers’ unions, protests against the underfunding of education, and their social activism.636 Anti-personnel mines on school routes also placed teachers’ and students’ lives at risk.637

In *Education under Attack 2018*, which covers 2013 to 2017, there were 16 reported incidents of attacks on students and education personnel, five of those attacks on teachers in 2017.638 GCPEA identified new reports of such attacks in 2017, increasing the number for that year to at least 19.639 Examples of the newly identified reports included:

- In April 2017, three flyers were slipped under the main door at Benjamín Herrera high school, in Bogotá, threatening 24 teachers for their presumed involvement in the peace process, according to *El Tiempo*. The flyers were allegedly signed by people who called themselves “Águilas Negras” (Black Eagles). The Secretary of Education was reportedly considering transferring the teachers to other schools as a result.640
- In La Italia, Chocó department, a teacher reportedly received a package bomb, allegedly left at her front door by the ELN, on September 17, 2017. The teacher, who had received death threats in the past, remained unharmed, according to local media. Members of the National Army’s anti-explosives group, Manejo de Artefactos Explosivos (MARTE), reportedly conducted a controlled detonation of the explosive.641

GCPEA collected reports of 24 attacks on students, teachers, and other education personnel in 2018.642 For example:

- An Afro-Colombian teacher in El Palmar, Valle del Cauca department, was allegedly murdered for his work to prevent drug sales to students, on May 31, 2018, according to the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) and local media sources. The teacher was reportedly shot multiple times on his way home from school by assailants on a motorcycle.643
- COALICO reported that early in the morning of June 8, 2018, members of an armed group shot two bullets at an
indigenous teacher’s residence, in Buenaventura, Valle del Cauca department, though the teacher escaped unharmed.644

- Local media sources reported that on June 12, 2018, gunmen shot and killed an indigenous leader and teacher, while on the way to the school where he worked in La Vega, Cauca department.645

- On July 4, 2018, BBC reported that a female teacher in Bolivar, Valle de Cauca department, received death threats from a member of AGC.646

- Local media reported that on July 17, 2018, armed men kidnapped an Afro-Colombian teacher, in Gauchené, Cauca department, but he was quickly rescued by a local security patrol. The kidnappers were suspected FARC-EP dissidents.647

- A flyer reportedly circulated on or around May 7, 2018, threatening social leaders and teachers in Morales, Cauca department. While the flyer was allegedly signed by a FARC-EP dissident group, no party had claimed responsibility for the threat at the time of writing.648

In 2019, GCPEA collected nine reports of attacks on students, teachers, and other education personnel.649 These included:

- In Turquestan, Huila department, the Battalion of Humanitarian Demining Engineers reportedly found and defused an explosive device on or around May 17, 2019, according to local media. Approximately 35 families walked along the path near where the explosive device was found on a daily basis, including children on their way to and from school.650

- On July 28, 2019, several teachers in the port city of Buenaventura, Valle del Cauca department, received letters threatening their death if they did not leave their jobs, according to local media.651

- In El Hobo, Bolivar department, 42 teachers reportedly stopped classes on August 22, 2019, after a flyer was circulated threatening the death of teachers in the area for indoctrinating students with leftist politics. The flyer was allegedly signed by people who called themselves “Águilas Negras” (Black Eagles), according to El Universal.652

Military use of schools and universities

Over the 2017-2019 reporting period, GCPEA collected reports documenting at least seven incidents of military use of schools and universities, three occurring in 2017.653 Reports indicated military use of schools occurred sporadically during this reporting period, as it did in the previous period. The UN verified seven incidents of military use between July 2016 and June 2019, attributing these to the national armed forces, AGC, ELN, and an unidentified armed element.654

It remained unclear whether these incidents overlap with the reports collected by GCPEA.

In 2018, COALICO identified 21 cases of armed forces or groups occupying or attacking educational institutions, an increase of five from 2017; 13 of these occurred in Norte de Santander department, while the rest took place in Nariño, Valle del Cauca, Chocó, Cauca, Huila, and Putumayo departments.655 From January to June 2019, COALICO identified ten instances of occupation of, and attack on, educational institutions, across Antioquia, Norte de Santander, Chocó, Córdoba, Cauca, Meta, Santander, and Valle del Cauca departments.656 However, it is unclear how many of these instances were military use of schools, rather than attacks on schools, and whether any overlap exists with instances compiled by GCPEA.

In 2018, GCPEA identified at least two reports of schools used for military purposes.657

- On June 15, 2018, the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia and the Indigenous People’s Commission on Human Rights reported that a National Army battalion set up base in the Pianlupí School in the Piguambí Palangala Reservation in Tumaco, Nariño department, where they spent the night and launched military operations.658 The UN documented an instance of the national armed forces using a school for six days in Nariño department, also in June 2018.659 It remains unclear whether these are the same incident of military use.

- On August 1, 2018, the AGC reportedly occupied a school in Riosucio, Chocó department, preventing 250 stu-
GCPEA identified two reported instances of military use in 2019:

- On February 4, 2019, the AGC reportedly took refuge in a school in Ituango, Antioquia department, while engaging with the National Army. The ensuing shootout between the AGC and armed forces placed 17 children who were in the school at the time at risk and left bullet holes in the walls of the school, according to local media outlet Caracol Radio.

- FARC-EP dissidents reportedly used a school as a defensive position during a confrontation with the National Army in a rural area of Corinto municipality, Cauca department, as reported by W Radio.

**Child recruitment at, or on the way to or from, school**

Over the 2017-2019 reporting period, GCPEA compiled seven reports of child recruitment at, or on the way to or from, school, although this is likely an undercount since school-related recruitment is often underreported. These reported incidents occurred in Arauca, Guaviare, Norte de Santander, and Putumayo departments. *Education under Attack 2018* included no reported instances in 2017; however, three reports of child recruitment at or en route to or from school in 2017 were identified after publication. According to local media, in November 2017, the Ombudsman of Guaviare department was aware of three cases of recruitment by FARC-EP dissidents in rural schools of that department.

According to the UN, the FARC-EP stopped recruiting children after transforming into a political party, and has released 144 children since September 2016. Among the 124 of those children who joined a reintegration program, more than half were girls.

During this reporting period, armed groups in Colombia sometimes offered schoolchildren small sums of money and promised them monthly pay for joining, according to the Office of the Ombudsman and media reports. In some cases, children already recruited by armed groups who knew, or were friends with, schoolchildren were told to promise money, protection for families, or other benefits if the children joined the armed groups.

In 2018, GCPEA compiled at least one reported incident of forced recruitment at, or on the way to or from, school. Local news sources reported that on or about April 20, 2018, presumed FARC-EP dissidents recruited four students between the ages of 13 and 15 from a school in Puerto Asís, Putumayo department.

In 2019, GCPEA collected four reported instances of school-related forced recruitment:

- Local media reported that in the first months of 2019 FARC-EP dissidents visited rural schools in San Vicente del Caguán, Caquetá department, to recruit children; media outlets cited the mayor’s office for the information.

- Human Rights Watch reported that the ELN visited schools in rural Catatumbo region, Norte de Santander department, in March 2019, in an attempt to recruit children.

- In April 2019, members of the ELN reportedly recruited two 15-year-old girls in a rural area of Arauca department, after the bus dropped them off on their way home from school. According to Human Rights Watch, the ELN recruited the girls with the aim of using them as fighters. One of the girls was released after her mother intervened with the armed group; mother and daughter reportedly then fled the department.

- On November 12, 2019, local media reported that a 14-year-old boy was forcibly recruited from a public school by an armed group in Putumayo department.

**Attacks on higher education**

GCPEA collected at least 48 reports of attacks on higher education during the 2017-2019 reporting period, with most of those occurring in 2018 and 2019. Such attacks appear to have increased; in *Education under Attack 2018*, which covered 2013-2017, GCPEA reported fewer than five attacks per year.

In 2017, GCPEA collected four reports of attacks on higher education. These instances were identified after the publication of *Education under Attack 2018*, which included no attacks on higher education in 2017. Examples included:
In early April 2017, in Ibagué, Tolima department, a pamphlet was reportedly circulated at the University of Tolima threatening approximately seven students with having promoted paramilitary politics. Local media reported that the document was allegedly attributed to FARC-EP dissidents.675

According to local media, on August 24, 2017, in Riohacha, Guajira department, an explosive device went off near the home of an academic at the University of La Guajira and former education official. The academic’s house was reportedly damaged in the explosion, but he was not hurt. News reports named no suspects.676

Reports of attacks on higher education escalated at the end of 2018, when massive waves of student protests occurred around the country to demand reforms to the national budget, including more funding for education.677 While the majority of demonstrations occurred peacefully, students blocked traffic and threw rocks at police in some cases, and police fired teargas into crowds, used force to break up protests, and detained students.678 Many university students returned to classes during the first months of 2019; however, by the end of that year, other students had walked out of classes, in response to alleged corruption and misspending by a director at District University of Bogotá, and perceived government incompliance with earlier funding promises for higher education.679 University students also demonstrated for the dissolution of the Mobile Anti-Riot Squadron (ESMAD) after its alleged violent repression of protests.680

In addition to violence by police forces, local media also reported that non-state armed groups made threats against university students, professors, and other members of the academic community in 2018 and 2019. Non-state armed groups allegedly made some of these threats as retaliation for comments academics made against these groups, or for their teachings and organizing.681

GCPEA collected 14 reports of attacks on higher education in 2018.682 Examples of repression of education-related protests during 2018 included:

- On November 11, 2018, officers in riot gear reportedly arrested students during an education march in Bogotá; allegations of plainclothes police officers inciting violence with students were reportedly confirmed through video footage, according to the Associated Press.683

- On November 28, 2018, El Tiempo reported clashes between ESMAD and students of the Industrial University of Santander in Bucamaranga, during which authorities fired teargas and stun grenades into the crowds.684

- On December 13, 2018, ESMAD used violence to repress student protests in the city of Popayán at the University of Cauca, according to local media sources. Reports suggested that ESMAD used teargas, stun grenades, and baton attacks. Dozens were reportedly injured and eight were in serious condition, with one student reported to have lost an eye; several students were reportedly injured while seeking shelter in buildings across campus.685

Examples of reported threats against university students, professors, and staff in 2018 included:

- On October 27, 2018, two administrators at the National University in Medellín received death threats via telephone, according to El Tiempo.686

- In November 2018, a professor of political science and international relations at the University of the North, in Barranquilla, received threats due to an interview he gave to the press. During the interview, the professor discussed non-state armed groups and drug trafficking in Barranquilla, as well as armed conflict in Colombia more broadly, as part of his academic research. According to local media, the academic fled the country.687

In 2019, GCPEA recorded 31 reported attacks on higher education students, personnel, and facilities.688 Instances of reported repression at education-related protests or excessive use of force on university campuses in 2019 included:

- According to media reports, on May 9, 2019, armored police vehicles used water cannons to disperse students from the National Pedagogic University in Bogotá, during protests over cuts to the education budget proposed by President Iván Duque’s administration. The students allegedly threw rocks and Molotov cocktails at the riot police.689

- On November 6, 2019, ESMAD agents reportedly surrounded District University of Bogotá, firing stun grenades at peaceful protesters inside the university. During the protests, District University students announced their
indefinite strike in response to alleged corruption and misspending by a former director at the university and other complaints against the administration, according to local media.\(^{590}\)

- ESMAD agents reportedly entered Atlantic University in Baranquilla on October 24, 2019, where they fired tear-gas and made arrests in response to vandalism in classrooms during student protests, according to Semana. Another local source reported that 27 students were arrested.\(^{691}\)

Examples of reported threats against and attacks on professors and university students for their perceived political leanings and organizing, alongside other reasons, in 2019, included:

- On January 23, 2019, two threatening posters against the academic community of the University of Antioquia, Medellín, were found, from a group called Brigade 18, according to local media sources. The threats came after the ELN bombing of a police academy in Bogotá in January 2019 and subsequent statements by the governor of Antioquia requesting the dean of the university to verify the presence of ELN guerillas in the institution.\(^{692}\)

- An explosive device was reportedly discovered in a bathroom at the north campus of the University of the Atlantic in Barranquilla on July 8, 2019. After evacuating students, authorities defused the device, according to local media. A flyer near the device reportedly threatened communist students at the university.\(^{693}\)

- Local media reported that at the main gate of the University of Antioquia in Medellín an unidentified man on a motorcycle handed a student leader a threatening letter in August 2019. The letter was allegedly signed by people who called themselves “Aguilas Negras” (Black Eagles).\(^{694}\)
again on October 10? (¿Por qué los estudiantes saldrán nuevamente a las calles el 10 de octubre?),” Semana, October 2, 2019.


624 Colombian Ministry of Defense. “Another Unionist was Killed in Cauca (OTRO SINDICALISTA FUE ASESINADO EN EL CAUCA),” Noticiero 90 Minutos, June 10, 2018.


627 At the end of the year, attacks continued to deny access to education to tens of thousands of children in the province of Cauca (Colombia – Flash Update No. 1: Displacement and restrictions on movement in the municipality of Corinto (Cauca)),” OCHA, January 30, 2019.

628 Colombia - Flash Update No. 1 – Colombia: Mass Displacement in Hatari (Norte de Santander) (Flash Update No. 1 – Colombia: Desplazamiento masivo Hatari (Norte de Santander)).” OCHA, April 18, 2017.

629 Civil society group OCHA, “Police investigate the attempted kidnapping of a teacher in Guachené, Cauca (Policía investiga intento de secuestro a profesor en el municipio de Guachené, Cauca),” Caracol Radio, January 17, 2018.


636 COALICO, “Monitoring bulletin no. 20 (Boletín de monitoreo No. 20),” January-December 2018, p. 11.


638 Olga Patricia Rendón M. “New anti-personnel mines are discovered in Briceño (Descubren nuevas minas antipersonal en Briceño),” El Colombiano, April 26, 2018.

639 Olga Lucía Cotamo Salazar, “Clashes between ELN and EPL cause suspension of classes in Hacari (Por enfrentamientos entre ELN y EPL, suspenden clases en Hacari),” RCN Radio, August 25, 2018.


641 “Mine field located near school in Orito Putumayo (Ubican campo minado cerca a un colegio en Orito Putumayo),” Caracol Radio, January 17, 2018.

642 “Mined fields in the municipality of Corinto (Colombia – Flash Update No. 1: Displacement and restrictions on movement in the municipality of Corinto (Cauca)),” OCHA, January 30, 2019.

643 COALICO, “Monitoring bulletin no. 20 (Boletín de monitoreo No. 20),” January-December 2018, p. 11.


645 “Colombia - Flash Update No. 1 – Colombia: Mass Displacement in Hatari (Norte de Santander) (Flash Update No. 1 – Colombia: Desplazamiento masivo Hatari (Norte de Santander)).” OCHA, April 18, 2017.


647 Human Rights Watch, “Colombia - Flash Update No. 1: Displacement and restrictions on movement in the municipality of Corinto (Cauca) (Colombia – Flash Update No. 1: Desplazamientos y restricciones a la movilidad en el municipio de Corinto (Cauca)),” OCHA, January 30, 2019.

648 “COALICO, “Monitoring bulletin no. 20 (Boletín de monitoreo No. 20),” January-December 2018, p. 11.


656 “Explosive device found in Baraya (Artefacto explosivo encontrado en Baraya),” OCHA, January 30, 2019.


660 “Mine field located near school in Orito Putumayo (Ubican campo minado cerca a un colegio en Orito Putumayo),” Caracol Radio, January 17, 2018.

661 “Another Unionist was Killed in Cauca (OTRO SINDICALISTA FUE ASESINADO EN EL CAUCA),” Proclama del Cauca, June 13, 2018; “Teacher killed on his way to the educational institution where he worked (Asesinan a profesor cuando se dirigía a la institución educativa donde trabajaba),” Noticiero Caracol, June 13, 2018.

662 “You know that here we kill whoever we want”: what is said about Colombia in the audio with threats to the teacher Deyanira Ballestas (“Usted sabe que acá asesinamos al que nos dé la gana”: lo que dice de Colombia el audio con amenazas a la maestra Deyanira Ballestas),” BBC, July 5, 2018.

663 “Another Unionist was Killed in Cauca (OTRO SINDICALISTA FUE ASESINADO EN EL CAUCA),” Proclama del Cauca, June 13, 2018; “Teacher killed on his way to the educational institution where he worked (Asesinan a profesor cuando se dirigía a la institución educativa donde trabajaba),” Noticiero Caracol, June 13, 2018.

664 “Kidnapped teacher rescued in Guachené, Cauca (Rescatan a docente secuestrado en Guachené, Cauca),” W Radio, July 17, 2018; “Police investigate the attempted kidnapping of a teacher in Guachené, Cauca (Policía investiga intento de secuestro a profesor en el municipio de Guachené, Cauca),” Noticiero 90 Minutos, July 17, 2018.
668 “Worry due to death threats against teachers in Morales, Cauca (Preocupación por amenazas de muerte a docentes en Morales, Cauca),” W Radio, May 7, 2018.


672 Lila Leyva Villareal, “In El Hobo, teachers and directors threatened by flyer (En El Hobo, amenazan con panfleto a docentes y directivos),” El Universal, August 22, 2019.


675 Monitoring bulletin no. 20, Children in Armed Conflict in Colombia, January-December 2018 (Boletín de monitoreo no. 19, Niñez y conflicto armado en Colombia, enero-diciembre 2018),” COALICO, p. 11.

676 “FARC dissidents recruit 4 students in Putumayo (Disidencias de las Farc reclutan a 4 estudiantes en Putumayo),” El Colombiano, November 6, 2019.


678 “Colombia: Clashes between student protesters and police in Bogota Nov. 8,” Gardo World news release, November 10, 2018; Fabio Andres Diaz, “Mass protests in Colombia mar president’s first 100 days but reveal a nation marching toward peace,” Associated Press, December 7, 2018.


680 “Students from the National University of Bogotá, decide to return to classes (Estudiantes de la U. Nacional, de Bogotá, deciden regresar a clases),” El Tiempo, January 23, 2019; “Why are students taking to the streets again on October 10? (¿Por qué los estudiantes saldrán nuevamente a las calles el 10 de octubre?),” Semana, October 2, 2019.
680 Human Rights Watch “Colombia: Abuses Amid Massive Demonstrations: Beatings, Expulsions of Venezuelans, Arbitrary Detentions,” March 10, 2020; “Students demand the dissolution of Esmad in Colombia (Estudiantes exigen la disolución del Esmad en Colombia),” Telésur, January 24, 2019; “Why are students taking to the streets again on October 10? (¿Por qué los estudiantes saldrán nuevamente a las calles el 10 de octubre?),” Semana, October 2, 2019.

681 “Student who asked Uribe to marry peace is threatened (Amenazan a estudiante que le pidió a Uribe que se casara con la paz),” El Tiempo, August 15, 2018; “Due to threats, the university professor Luis Trejos goes into exile (Por amenazas, sale al exilio el profesor universitario Luis Trejos),” El Heraldo, January 30, 2019.

682 A full list of references can be found on GCPEA’s website, https://protectingeducation.org/wp-content/uploads/eua_2020_references.pdf

683 Fabio Andres Diaz, “Mass protests in Colombia mar president’s first 100 days but reveal a nation marching toward peace,” Associated Press, December 7, 2018.


685 “Colombian Student Loses an Eye in Violent Repression, the Strike Continues,” News Click, People’s dispatch, December 15, 2018; Juan Camilo Montoya Echaverría, “Videos: outbreaks of violence in some student marches in the country (Videos: brotes de violencia en algunas marchas estudiantiles del país),” El Colombiano, December 8, 2018; “Nine wounded after clashes between students and Esmad in Popayán (Nueve heridos dejaron enfrentamientos entre estudiantes y el Esmad en Popayán),” Radio Super, December 14, 2018.

686 “University reports threat made against two of its staff (Universidad Nacional denuncia amenaza contra dos de sus funcionarios),” El Tiempo, October 27, 2018.

687 “Due to threats, the university professor Luis Trejos goes into exile (Por amenazas, sale al exilio el profesor universitario Luis Trejos),” El Heraldo, January 30, 2019.


689 “Students lob Molotov cocktails at riot cops as Colombia anti-govt protests turn violent (VIDEOS),” RT, May 10, 2019.

690 Miguel Ángel Valencia González, “New confrontations between District students and Esmad (Nuevos enfrentamientos entre estudiantes de la Distrital y el Esmad),” LAFM, November 6, 2019.

691 “Education Ministry did not participate in decision for Esmad to enter UniAtlántico (Ministerio de Educación no participó en la decisión del ingreso del Esmad a la UniAtlántico),” Semana, October 24, 2019; “Students arrested for unrest in UniAtlántico freed (Dejan en libertad estudiantes capturados por disturbios en la UniAtlántico),” Caracol Radio, October 25, 2019.

692 “Posters with threats appear at the University of Antioquia (Carteles con amenazas aparecieron en la Universidad de Antioquia),” El Tiempo, January 23, 2019; “What’s behind the National Brigade 18, the supposed anticommunist group threatening the university? (¿Qué hay detrás de Brigada Nacional 18, el supuesto grupo anticomunista que amenaza en la universidad?),” Semana, January 28, 2019.

693 “Controlled detonation of explosive at Atlantic University (Detonan, controladamente, explosivo en la Universidad del Atlántico),” El Tiempo, July 8, 2019; “Controlled explosion carried out on explosive device found at Atlantic U. (Detonan de forma controlada artefacto explosivo encontrado en la U. del Atlántico),” El Espectador, July 8, 2019.

694 “Student who asked Uribe to marry peace threatened (Amenazan a estudiante que le pidió a Uribe que se casara con la paz),” El Tiempo, August 15, 2018; “Student council in the CESU reports death threat (Consejero estudiantil en el CESU denuncia amenazas de muerte),” El Observatorio de la Universidad Colombiana, August 15, 2018.