

Attacks on education

are any threatened or actual use of force against students, teachers, academics, schools, and universities perpetrated by armed forces, other state security forces, or non-state armed groups. These attacks include violence or threats against education support staff (such as janitors and bus drivers) and education officials, as well as education buildings, resources, and facilities (including school buses, libraries, and playgrounds).

Attacks on schools:

targeted and indiscriminate attacks on pre, primary, and secondary schools. Examples include arson, explosives, airstrikes, shelling, threats of violent attack, and crossfire.

Attacks on students, teachers, and other education personnel:

attacks on school students, teachers, or staff which take place in school or on the way to or from school, or otherwise target students or teachers for education-related reasons. Examples include killings, injuries, torture, abductions, forced disappearances, threats of violence, arrest, and excessive use of force at education-related protests.

Military use of schools or universities:

armed forces, other state security forces, or non-state armed groups occupy schools or universities to use them for purposes that support a military effort. Examples include using education facilities as bases, barracks, fighting positions, weapons stores, and training or detention centers.

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

armed forces, other state security forces, or non-state armed groups forcibly recruit children from schools or school routes. Children may be recruited as fighters or spies, or for domestic work or transporting weapons, or for other purposes.

Sexual violence at, or on the way to or from, school or university:

armed forces, other state security forces, or non-state armed groups sexually threaten, harass, or abuse students or educators of all genders at schools or along school routes. Sexual violence includes rape, sexual slavery, forced marriage, genital harm, forced nudity, and any other non-consensual sexual act.

Attacks on higher education:

targeted and indiscriminate attacks on colleges and universities, as well as targeted attacks on students, professors, or personnel. Examples include arson, explosives, airstrikes, killings, injuries, threats of violent attack, arrest, and excessive use of force at education-related or on campus protests.

Violence or threats perpetrated by criminal organizations are not included as attacks on education.

For the complete definitions of attacks on education and military use, refer to [Education under Attack](#) or the [Toolkit for Collecting and Analyzing Data on Attacks on Education](#)