

MILITARY USE OF SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES

 Countries with armed conflict where national armed forces or non-state armed groups used schools or universities between 2005 and 2014.

 Examples of good practice protecting schools and universities from military use, in legislation, military doctrine, court rulings, or policy.

UNITED NATIONS
“Schools shall not be used by the military in their operations.” [UN Peacekeeping Infantry Battalion Manual, 2012](#).
Call to end armed forces using schools in Colombia, Sri Lanka, Syria, and Thailand. [UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, 2010 and 2012](#).

NICARAGUA
University campuses are inviolable. Public forces can only enter them with written authorization from the university authorities. [Law on Institutions of Higher Education, 1990](#).

COLOMBIA
It is a violation for a commander to allow his troops to occupy a school, which causes an imminent risk to a child’s protection. [Order of General Commander of Military Forces, 2010](#).
Prevent security forces from entering schools for trainings, to mount weapons, or to deploy armed personnel. [Constitutional Court, 1999](#).

ARGENTINA
Public forces cannot enter national universities without prior written order from a court or a request from the university. [Higher Education Act, 1995](#).

COTE D’IVOIRE
UN and NGOs shared information on military use of schools with UN peacekeepers who then advocated with state and non-state actors to leave occupied schools.

IRELAND
Military manoeuvres and encampments cannot interfere with school or school ground. [Defence Act, 1954](#).

UNITED KINGDOM
“The better view” is that the law prohibits the use of education institutions for purposes likely to expose it to damage, unless there is no feasible alternative. [Manual of the Law of Armed Conflict, 2004](#).

SOUTH SUDAN
In 2011, troops used at least **21 schools**, affecting approximately 10,900 children. The cost to repair damage caused by such use was around **US\$67,000** per school.

YEMEN
In 2010, Houthi rebels occupied dozens of schools in Northern Yemen, preventing at least **30,000 children** from attending.
In 2011, armed forces and non-state armed groups occupied at least **54 schools** in Sanaa.

AFGHANISTAN
In 2011, there were at least **31 incidents** of opposition groups and pro-government forces using schools. This rivals the number of schools burned down during the same period, which was 35.

THAILAND
In 2010, government forces used at least **79 schools** for camps and barracks in southern Thailand, endangering and imperiling the education of an estimated **20,500 students**.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
In 2013, **64 schools** occupied by armed groups in Katanga province alone. Schools were also used in North and South Kivu.

INDIA
During 2010, security forces used more than **129 schools**, disrupting studies for an estimated **20,800 students**.

NEPAL
“No armed activities in the school premises and in its periphery.” [Ministry of Education guidelines call for no use of schools for any armed activities, 2011](#).

SOUTH SUDAN
Occupation of schools “deplorable” and in “violation of our law”. [Order of Army Deputy Chief of Staff, 2012](#).

INDIA
Ensure that schools “are not allowed to be occupied by the armed or security forces in future for whatsoever purpose” [Supreme Court, 2010](#).

MYANMAR
Two non-state armed groups publicly committed to avoid using schools for military purposes, 2012.

THE PHILIPPINES
Schools “shall not be utilized for military purposes such as command posts, barracks, detachments, and supply depots.” [Special Protection of Children Act, 1992](#).