

# AFGHANISTAN

**GCPEA identified over 140 attacks on schools, school students, and education personnel during the 2022-2023 reporting period. Also, the Taliban was responsible for a number of attacks on higher education, particularly affecting female students and staff; at least 98 higher education students and staff were arrested or detained. In addition, incidents of the military use of schools and universities increased.**

## CONTEXT

Conflict-related violence reduced overall in Afghanistan in 2022 after the Taliban's takeover in August 2021, although insecurity remained in some areas.<sup>1</sup> In 2022, the UN reported attacks on Taliban forces by members of armed groups, including the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant-Khorasan (ISIL-K), and around 20 other regionally-based groups.<sup>2</sup> According to Human Rights Watch, violence between the Taliban and the National Resistance Front (NRF) escalated briefly in 2022 in Panjshir province.<sup>3</sup> These attacks reportedly decreased in 2023, according to Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED).<sup>4</sup> Disputes within Taliban forces also produced occasional violence.<sup>5</sup> Along the country's borders, Pakistani and Iranian armed forces engaged in clashes with the Taliban, according to ACLED and international media.<sup>6</sup> Throughout 2022, Afghans voiced their opposition to Taliban oppression through peaceful protests, many led by women, demanding human rights, equality, and justice, according to Human Rights Watch.<sup>7</sup> The Taliban responded with violent repression, as well as arrests, detentions and abductions.<sup>8</sup>

Afghanistan faced rapid and significant economic decline in 2022 and 2023, as many foreign governments imposed sanctions and suspended development assistance, which previously represented 75 percent of government spending.<sup>9</sup> According to the UN, 28.3 million people, representing two thirds of the population and including 15.2 million children, required humanitarian assistance in 2023.<sup>10</sup> The unprecedented humanitarian crisis during the 2022-2023 reporting period was partly the result of the abrupt loss of foreign spending along with the lingering effects of war and displacement, as well as earthquakes and climate shocks, such as flooding and drought, which compounded the situation.<sup>11</sup> The UN reported that 125 operational schools were damaged or destroyed in the October 2023 earthquakes.<sup>12</sup>

The UN reported that women's and girls' freedoms and rights were restricted during the reporting period.<sup>13</sup> The number of working female journalists decreased, women were not allowed to access public parks nationwide, female health workers could only provide care for women, and female patients without a mahram (male chaperone) were denied treatment in some areas.<sup>14</sup> In December 2022, the Taliban banned female humanitarian workers, who reportedly comprised 30 percent of Afghans working for non-governmental organizations in the country, further reducing access to humanitarian assistance for women and children; however, exceptions were later made for women working in healthcare, nutrition, and primary education.<sup>15</sup>

The UN reported that around four million children were out of school in Afghanistan in early 2022.<sup>16</sup> In March 2022, in a last-minute reversal of a prior decision, the Taliban kept secondary schools closed for girls.<sup>17</sup> The UN reported in early 2023 that around 200,000 girls attended secondary schools across 12 provinces, and that female secondary school teachers still received salaries;<sup>18</sup> however, by the end of 2023, secondary schools were reported to be closed to girls in all provinces.<sup>19</sup> The UN also reported that community-based classes were serving approximately 686,000 children, more than half of whom were girls.<sup>20</sup> In higher education, Amnesty International reported in mid-2022 that gender segregation, chaperoning requirements, and dress codes, among other restrictions, created significant challenges for women to attend university.<sup>21</sup> In December 2022, the Taliban banned women from universities.<sup>22</sup>

## ATTACKS ON SCHOOLS

GCPEA identified at least 68 attacks on schools in 2022 and 2023, compared to 76 reported attacks in 2021 and 62 in 2020.<sup>23</sup> Overall, the number of attacks on schools continued to decline from a 2018 peak of 192.<sup>24</sup> The majority of attacks involved explosive weapons. These incidents reportedly killed at least 90 students and teachers, around half of whom were female, and injured at least 195 more. The UN reported in 2023 that, as a result of ISIL-K targeted attacks against ethnic groups, in particular Hazara, including attacks on educational infrastructure, parents were afraid to allow their children to go to school.<sup>25</sup> The decrease in attacks may reflect reduced reporting and may also be attributed to the number of schools that were closed, in particular girls' schools, as well as lower attendance.

In 2022, GCPEA identified at least eight attacks on schools.<sup>26</sup> For example:

- On January 10, 2022, an explosive remnant of war detonated near a school in Lal Pur district, Nangarhar province, killing eight students and injuring four more; all the children were boys, as reported by the UN and international media.<sup>27</sup>
- On September 30, 2022, the UN reported that an explosive attached to a suicide bomber detonated at the Kaaj private tutoring center in Dasht-e-Barchi, Kabul, killing at least 54 people and injuring at least 114, most of whom were Hazara women and girls.<sup>28</sup> At the time, approximately 400 boys and girls were reportedly studying for university entrance exams at the center, and were separated, in accordance with Taliban instructions, as reported by international media VOA; the explosive reportedly detonated in the girls' section.<sup>29</sup>
- The UN and international media reported that on November 30, 2022, an explosive device detonated at a religious school in Aybak town, in Samangan province, killing at least 20 students and children, and injuring another twelve.<sup>30</sup>

In 2023, the UN verified 60 attacks on schools.<sup>31</sup> Separately, in 2023, GCPEA identified two incidents of attacks schools.<sup>32</sup> Since some of these may overlap with the UN count, they were not included in the total, to avoid double counting. For instance, on March 29, 2023, an explosive device detonated at Jeriq-doq Girls' School in Qush Tapa district, Jowzjan province, reportedly killing two female students.

## ATTACKS ON SCHOOL STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND OTHER EDUCATION PERSONNEL

GCPEA identified at least 15 reports of attacks on school students and teachers in the reporting period. In comparison, GCPEA identified at least 11 such attacks in 2021 and at least 16 in 2020.<sup>33</sup> A large number of attacks were against female students and staff at girls' schools, or against those involved in protests for girls' education.

In 2022, the UN verified 72 incidents of attacks on schools, students, and personnel; the Taliban was responsible for many of the attacks, including killings.<sup>34</sup> It appeared that many of these attacks were on students and staff, since the report mentions a high number of attacks against protected persons. However, GCPEA could not determine how many were attacks on students or personnel as compared with attacks on schools. Separately, GCPEA identified at least ten reported attacks on school students and teachers in 2022.<sup>35</sup> For example:

- On April 19, 2022, an explosive device was detonated targeting students at Abdul Raheem Shaheed High School, a boys' school serving up to 1,000 students, as boys were leaving classes, in the Shia Hazara neighborhood of Dasht-e-Barchi, Kabul. In what appeared to be a coordinated attack, an explosive device subsequently detonated at a nearby school as rescuers were arriving at the site of the first blast, as reported by international media *Al Jazeera* and the *BBC*.<sup>36</sup> The UN reported that the attacks killed at least nine children and injured another fifty.<sup>37</sup>
- On May 14, 2022, unidentified militants reportedly killed the deputy principal of a Turkish Maarif primary school in the Aino Mena area of Kandahar city and province. No group claimed responsibility.<sup>38</sup>
- On September 10, 2022, local and international media reported that the Taliban allegedly arrested five school principals in Gardez city, Paktia province, for allowing girls to return to schools.<sup>39</sup>
- In a related incident, on September 11, 2022, the Taliban reportedly arrested 18 female protesters in Gardez city, Paktia province, who were demonstrating against school closures and the arrest of the school principals one day earlier. According to reports from local media and a local NGO shortly after the incident, the Taliban had released 16 of the girls, but one student and a teacher remained in custody.<sup>40</sup>

GCPEA identified at least five attacks on school students, teachers, and other education personnel in 2023.<sup>41</sup> For example:

- On May 18, 2023, the Taliban reportedly arrested a school principal in Dawlat Shahi village, Bagram district, Parwan province, allegedly for criticizing the closure of girls' schools, according to ACLED and local media *Kabul Now* and *Hasht-E Subh*.<sup>42</sup>
- On May 22, 2023, the Taliban reportedly beat and detained two female teachers in Bamiyan city and province, when they attended a visit to the city by the acting minister of education, as reported by ACLED and local media *Hasht-e Subh*.<sup>43</sup>

## MILITARY USE OF SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES

GCPEA identified at least 54 incidents of the military use of educational facilities during the 2022-2023 re-

porting period. This marks an increase compared to the previous reporting period, when the UN verified 26 cases of military use of educational facilities in 2021 and five cases in 2020.<sup>44</sup>

The UN verified 54 cases of military use by the Taliban in 2022.<sup>45</sup> For example, the UN reported that the Taliban occupied 24 of the 129 schools in Panjshir province from July 2022 onwards.<sup>46</sup> GCPEA also identified at least 35 incidents of military use in 2022; however, since GCPEA could not determine how many of these incidents overlapped with the UN's counts, they were not included in the total number of military use incidents, to avoid double counting.<sup>47</sup> Incidents identified by GCPEA included:

- As reported by local media *Shafaqna* on February 3, 2022, a girls' school in the village of Dehkalan in Shutul district, Panjshir province, was used as a military base.<sup>48</sup>
- Amnesty International reported that, on May 8, 2022, the Taliban held and interrogated detainees at Malik Mirzayee Shahid school, which they were using as a base, in Abdullah Khil village, Darah district, Panjshir province.<sup>49</sup>
- On October 28, 2022, local media *Hasht-e-Subh* reported that the Markaz-e Bandar Seminary in Sangtakht-Wa Bandar district, Daikundi province, was turned into a military base barracking an estimated 350 fighters.<sup>50</sup>

GCPEA identified at least 50 cases of the military use of schools in 2023, although it was unclear whether these began in 2022 or 2023.<sup>51</sup> Separately, the UN verified 32 cases of military use by the Taliban in 2023, although it was not clear when these began, or whether they overlapped with incidents identified by GCPEA.<sup>52</sup> As a result, these were not added to the total for the reporting period, to avoid double counting. Also in 2023, the UN reported that 22 schools that had been occupied since August 2021 were vacated.<sup>53</sup>

ACLED and local media *Kabul Now* reported, in January 2023, that 50 schools in Panjshir province were being used as bases.<sup>54</sup> For example, a secondary school was reportedly occupied in Paryan district, Panjshir province, until the end of January 2023, as reported by ACLED and local media *Kabul Now*.<sup>55</sup> According to local media *Hasht-e Subh*, 28 schools in Panjshir province were still being used for military purposes in March 2023.<sup>56</sup>

## ATTACKS ON HIGHER EDUCATION

GCPEA identified at least 26 attacks on higher education in the current reporting period, 25 of which were attacks on higher education students and staff, and one of which was an attack on a university. The number of attacks remains consistent with the previous reporting period, when GCPEA identified at least 15 such attacks in 2021 and at least ten in 2020.<sup>57</sup> As the Taliban imposed increasing restrictions on female students accessing higher education in 2022, the majority of incidents included the use of force against, or detention of, female students and staff; at least 39 students were reportedly injured, and at least 98 students and staff were reportedly abducted or arrested. These attacks appeared to decline in 2023, after the Taliban banned women from higher education in December 2022.<sup>58</sup>

GCPEA identified at least 24 attacks on higher education in 2022.<sup>59</sup> For example:

- As reported by local media and Scholars at Risk, in April 2022, the Taliban arrested 11 women in connection to a meeting at Bamyán University in Bamyán city and province, where women were demanding that the Taliban lift the ban on women's education.<sup>60</sup>
- Local media *Voice of Afghan* and *Etilaat Roz* reported that, on May 14, 2022, female Taliban members allegedly beat three female students for wearing colorful clothes and using earphones, at Balkh University, Mazar-e-Sharif city, Balkh province.<sup>61</sup>
- On June 1, 2022, local media *Hasht-e Subh* reported that the Taliban allegedly stormed Khatam Al-Nabieen University in Ghazni city and province, beating four students then abducting them.<sup>62</sup>
- On June 17, 2022, local media reported that the Taliban arrested 30 female students at Takhar University in Taluqan city, Takhar province, for not complying with Taliban rules.<sup>63</sup>
- On October 4, 2022, as reported by Scholars at Risk, the Taliban arrested 40 students at Al-Biruni University in Kohistan city, Kapisa province; the students were protesting the killing of students in the suicide bombing on September 30, detailed above, which triggered a number of student protests in the region.<sup>64</sup>
- On October 30, 2022, at Badakhshan University in Fayzabad city, Badakhshan province, the Taliban reportedly beat at least 24 female students, rendering several of them unconscious. The students were protesting after a group of women were not allowed to enter the campus without burqas, as reported by Scholars at Risk and local and international media.<sup>65</sup>

GCPEA identified two reports of attacks on higher education students and staff in 2023:

- According to Scholars at Risk, on March 28, 2023, Taliban authorities reportedly arrested a professor as he was leaving Badakhshan University in Fayzabad city, Badakhshan province, allegedly in connection to his opposition to the Taliban's restrictions on the education of women and girls. He was reportedly released on April 13, 2023.<sup>66</sup>
- Around June 2023, Taliban authorities allegedly arrested a student from a student dormitory near Bamyán University in Bamyán city and province, as reported by local media *Etilaat e Roz*.<sup>67</sup>

## ENDNOTES

- 1 ICG, "REPORT No. 326 / ASIA - Afghanistan's Security Challenges under the Taliban," International Crisis Group, August 12, 2022, pp. i-ii.
- 2 UN General Assembly and Security Council, "The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security: Report of the Secretary-General," A/77/636-S/2022/916, December 7, 2022, paras. 19 and 20.
- 3 "Afghanistan: Taliban Torture Civilians in Panjshir," Human Rights Watch news release, June 10, 2022.
- 4 Asena Karacalti and Elliott Bynum, "Two Years Of Repression: Mapping Taliban Violence Targeting Civilians in Afghanistan," ALCED and Afghan Peace Watch, August 11, 2023.
- 5 Asena Karacalti, "10 Conflicts to Worry About in 2022 - Afghanistan Mid-Year Update," ALCED, [no date].
- 6 Asena Karacalti, "10 Conflicts to Worry About in 2022 - Afghanistan Mid-Year Update," ALCED, [no date]. "What caused deadly Afghan-Iran border clashes? What happens next?" *Al Jazeera*, May 30, 2023. "Main Afghanistan-Pakistan border crossing closed after guards exchange fire," *Al Jazeera*, September 6, 2023.
- 7 Sahar Fetrat and Fareshta Abbasi, "In Afghanistan, Resistance Means Women," Human Rights Watch dispatch, October 12, 2022.
- 8 Sahar Fetrat and Fareshta Abbasi, "In Afghanistan, Resistance Means Women," Human Rights Watch dispatch, October 12, 2022. "Afghanistan: Women Protesters Detail Taliban Abuse," Human Rights Watch news release, October 20, 2022. Lynne O'Donnell, "Taliban Mark a 'Black Day' for Afghanistan With More Violence Against Women," August 15, 2022.
- 9 OCHA, "Afghanistan Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023 (January 2023)," January 23, 2023, p. 6. Safiullah Padshah and Christina Goldbaum, "Taliban Reneges on Promise to Open Afghan Girls' Schools," *The New York Times*, March 23, 2022.
- 10 OCHA, "Afghanistan Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023 (January 2023)," January 23, 2023, pp. 4, 6.
- 11 OCHA, "Afghanistan Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023 (January 2023)," January 23, 2023, p. 6. UNICEF, "Afghanistan Humanitarian Situation Report No. 9, September 2023," October 24, 2023, p. 2. OCHA, "Afghanistan: Herat Earthquake Response Plan (October 2023 - March 2024)," October 16, 2023, p. 4. OCHA, "Herat Earthquakes: Flash Update #7 Earthquakes in Herat Province, Western Region, Afghanistan (20 October 2023)," October 20, 2023, p. 2.
- 12 OCHA, "Herat Earthquakes: Flash Update #7 Earthquakes in Herat Province, Western Region, Afghanistan (20 October 2023)," October 20, 2023, p. 2.
- 13 UN General Assembly and Security Council, "The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security: Report of the Secretary-General," A/77/636-S/2022/916, December 7, 2022, para. 41.
- 14 UN General Assembly and Security Council, "The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security: Report of the Secretary-General," A/77/636-S/2022/916, December 7, 2022, paras. 39-42.
- 15 "Afghanistan: Humanitarians await guidelines on women's role in aid operations," UN news release, January 30, 2023. "Afghanistan: Taliban's targeting of women and NGOs preventing delivery of life-saving assistance is deplorable, say UN experts," OHCHR statement, December 30, 2022. Human Rights Watch, *World Report 2024* (New York: Human Rights Watch, 2024), Afghanistan chapter. Edith M. Lederer, "UN: Taliban ban on women aid workers is potential death blow," *AP*, January 30, 2023.
- 16 UNICEF, "Afghanistan Humanitarian Situation Report No.13 (1 January - 31 December 2022)," February 3, 2023, p. 4.
- 17 Stefanie Glinski and Ruchi Kumar, "Taliban U-turn over Afghan girls' education reveals deep leadership divisions," *The Guardian*, March 25, 2022. Safiullah Padshah and Christina Goldbaum, "Taliban Reneges on Promise to Open Afghan Girls' Schools," *The New York Times*, March 23, 2022.
- 18 "Afghanistan: Humanitarians await guidelines on women's role in aid operations," UN news release, January 30, 2023.
- 19 UNICEF, "Afghanistan Humanitarian Situation Report No. 12 for 1 January - 31 December 2023," February 4, 2024, p. 6.
- 20 UNICEF, "Afghanistan Humanitarian Situation Report No. 12," February 4, 2024, p. 5. "Afghanistan: Humanitarians await guidelines on women's role in aid operations," UN news release, January 30, 2023.
- 21 Amnesty International, *Death in slow motion: Women and girls under Taliban rule* (London: Amnesty International, 2022), pp. 22, 25.
- 22 "Afghanistan: Taliban ban women from universities amid condemnation," *BBC News*, December 21, 2022.
- 23 GCPEA, *Education under Attack 2022* (New York: Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, 2022), Afghanistan chapter.
- 24 GCPEA, *Education under Attack 2022*, Afghanistan chapter.
- 25 UN General Assembly, "Situation of human rights in Afghanistan: Report by the Secretary-General," A/78/338, September 1, 2023, para. 47.
- 26 A full list of references can be found on GCPEA's website, [https://protectingeducation.org/wp-content/uploads/eua\\_2024\\_references.pdf](https://protectingeducation.org/wp-content/uploads/eua_2024_references.pdf)
- 27 "Statement by Alice Akunga, UNICEF Afghanistan Representative a.i., on the death of eight children," UNICEF statement, January 11, 2022. Ayaz Gul, "Explosive Remnants of War Kill 9 Afghan Children," *Voice of America*, January 10, 2022.
- 28 UN General Assembly and Security Council, "The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security: Report of the Secretary-General," A/77/636-S/2022/916, December 7, 2022, para. 34. "SECURITY COUNCIL PRESS STATEMENT ON ATTACK AGAINST EDUCATIONAL CENTRE IN KABUL," United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan press statement, September 30, 2022. UN News, "Afghanistan: UN condemns 'callous' suicide attack on education centre," September 30, 2022.
- 29 Ayaz Gul, "Afghan Protests Continue Against School Attack as UN Raises Death Toll to 53," *Voice of America*, October 3, 2022.
- 30 "Security Council Press Statement on Afghanistan," UN Security Council press release SC/15125, December 1, 2022. Pamela Constable, "At

least 10 students killed in school bombing in northern Afghanistan,” *The Washington Post*, November 30, 2022. Mohammad Yunus Yawar, “Blast hits school in north Afghanistan, killing 15 - provincial official,” *Reuters*, November 30, 2022. Maroosha Muzaffar, “Bomb blast in a religious school in northern Afghanistan kills dozens, including students,” *The Independent*, December 1, 2022.

31 Information received from a UN respondent on May 15, 2024.

32 Kabul Now, “Taliban torches a high school in Panjshir,” *Kabul Now*, January 31, 2023. *Amu TV; Etilaat e Roz; Twitter*, as cited in ACLED, Event ID AFG66000. Kabul Now, “Mine explosion kills two children and wounds nine others in Jowzjan,” *Kabul Now*, March 31, 2023. *Afghan Islamic Press News Agency; Etilaat e Roz; Hasht-e Subh*, as cited in ACLED, Event ID AFG66330.

33 GCPEA, *Education under Attack 2022*, Afghanistan chapter.

34 UN General Assembly and Security Council, “Children and Armed Conflict: Report of the Secretary General,” A/77/895-S/2023/363, June 5, 2023, para. 19.

35 A full list of references can be found on GCPEA’s website, [https://protectingeducation.org/wp-content/uploads/eua\\_2024\\_references.pdf](https://protectingeducation.org/wp-content/uploads/eua_2024_references.pdf)

36 Modaser Islami, “At least 6 dead after explosions hit Kabul schools,” *Arab News*, April 19, 2022. “Deadly blasts target boys’ school in Afghan capital Kabul,” *Al Jazeera*, April 19, 2022. “Kabul blasts kill six and wound 20 at boys’ school,” *BBC*, April 19, 2022.

37 “Statement by UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell on attacks against schools in Kabul, Afghanistan,” UNICEF statement, April 19, 2022.

38 “Press Release Regarding the Attack Against Turkish Maarif Foundation’s Kandahar Aino Mena Primary School’s Deputy Principal,” Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Foreign Affairs, May 15, 2022. *National Resistance Front of Afghanistan; Twitter; Afghan Islamic Press News Agency; Afghan Peace Watch*, as cited in ACLED, Event ID AFG64142.

39 “Dozens of female students demonstrated in Paktia due to the closure of their schools (دندونم هتسب لیل د هب رتخد زومآشناد اهدد) (دندرک تارهظت ای تکتپ رد رتخد زومآشناد اهدد),” *Voice of America*, September 10, 2022. “Schoolgirls and female teachers protest the closure of schools in Paktia,” *Rukhshana*, September 10, 2022. *Hasht-e Subh; Rukhshana Media; Twitter; Shafaqna*, as cited in ACLED, Event ID AFG65143.

40 “Sources say that the Taliban arrested some protesting students of Paktia (دندونم هتسب لیل د هب رتخد زومآشناد اهدد) (دندرک تشادزاب ار ای تکتپ ضررعم زومآشناد اهدد) (دندرک تشادزاب),” *Afghanistan International*, September 11, 2022. “Girls protest schools closure in Paktia; Taliban arrest 18,” *Afghan Peace Watch*, September 12, 2022.

41 Ruchi Kumar and Emma Graham-Harrison, “Founder of Afghan girls’ school project arrested in Kabul,” *The Guardian*, March 28, 2023. Ali M. Latifi, “Arrest of leading education activist leaves Afghans confused and worried,” *The New Humanitarian*, April 12, 2023. Kabul Now, “Taliban detains school principal in Parwan province for criticising ban on girls’ education,” *Kabul Now*, May 20, 2023. *Hasht-e Subh*, as cited in ACLED, Event ID AFG66477. “Taliban’s Controversial Move: School Principal Detained for Criticizing Ban on Girls’ Education in Parwan,” *Hasht-E Subh*, May 19, 2023. *Hasht-e Subh; Rukhshana Media; Shafaqna*, as cited in ACLED, Event ID AFG66586. “Female Teachers Brutally Beaten in Bamiyan for Welcoming Taliban’s Acting Minister of Education,” *Hasht-E Subh*, May 22, 2023. *Hasht-e Subh*, as cited in ACLED, Event ID AFG66607. *Hasht-e Subh*, “Taliban’s Grip Tightens: School Teacher Arrested in Baghlan Province,” *Hasht-e Subh*, June 1, 2023. *Nimrokh Media; Rukhshana Media*, as cited in ACLED, Event ID AFG67097. “Taliban forces violently beat Daikundi teachers for teaching girls,” *Rukhshana*, September 21, 2023.

42 Kabul Now, “Taliban detains school principal in Parwan province for criticising ban on girls’ education,” *Kabul Now*, May 20, 2023. *Hasht-e Subh*, as cited in ACLED, Event ID AFG66477. “Taliban’s Controversial Move: School Principal Detained for Criticizing Ban on Girls’ Education in Parwan,” *Hasht-E Subh*, May 19, 2023.

43 *Hasht-e Subh; Rukhshana Media; Shafaqna*, as cited in ACLED, Event ID AFG66586. “Female Teachers Brutally Beaten in Bamiyan for Welcoming Taliban’s Acting Minister of Education,” *Hasht-E Subh*, May 22, 2023.

44 GCPEA, *Education under Attack 2022*, Afghanistan chapter. UN Security Council, “Children and armed conflict: Report of the Secretary-General,” A/76/871-S/2022/493, June 23, 2022, para. 18.

45 UN General Assembly and Security Council, “Children and Armed Conflict: Report of the Secretary General,” A/77/895-S/2023/363, June 5, 2023, para. 20.

46 UN Human Rights Council, “Situation of human rights in Afghanistan: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, Richard Bennett,” A/HRC/52/84 February 9, 2023, para. 75.

47 A full list of references can be found on GCPEA’s website, [https://protectingeducation.org/wp-content/uploads/eua\\_2024\\_references.pdf](https://protectingeducation.org/wp-content/uploads/eua_2024_references.pdf)

48 *Shafaqna*, as cited in ACLED, Event ID AFG63142. “Sending more forces to Panjshir from the Taliban (دندونم هتسب لیل د هب رتخد زومآشناد اهدد) (دندرک تشادزاب ار ای تکتپ ضررعم زومآشناد اهدد) (دندرک تشادزاب),” *Sputnik*, February 2, 2022. “Local media: Taliban has sent more forces to Panjshir (دندونم هتسب لیل د هب رتخد زومآشناد اهدد) (دندرک تشادزاب ار ای تکتپ ضررعم زومآشناد اهدد) (دندرک تشادزاب),” *Shafaqna*, February 3, 2022.

49 Amnesty International, *Afghanistan: “Your sons are in the mountains”: The collective punishment of civilians in Panjshir by the Taliban* (London: Amnesty International, June 2023), p. 25.

50 Hasht-e Subh Daily, “Taliban Turns Schools, Libraries Into Military Bases in Daikundi Province,” *Hasht-e Subh Daily*, October 28, 2022.

51 *Etilaat e Roz*, as cited in ACLED, Event ID AFG65841. Kabul Now, “Taliban torches a high school in Panjshir,” *Kabul Now*, January 31, 2023.

52 Information received from a UN respondent on May 15, 2024.

53 Information received from a UN respondent on May 15, 2024.

54 Kabul Now, “Taliban torches a high school in Panjshir,” *Kabul Now*, January 31, 2023. *Etilaat e Roz*, as cited in ACLED, Event ID AFG65841.

55 Kabul Now, “Taliban torches a high school in Panjshir,” *Kabul Now*, January 31, 2023. *Amu TV; Etilaat e Roz; Twitter*, as cited in ACLED, Event

ID AFG66000.

56 Hasht-e Subh, “Taliban Deploy in Panjshir Schools: Students of 28 Schools Deprived of Education (دندونم هتسب لیل د هب رتخد زومآشناد اهدد) (دندرک تشادزاب ار ای تکتپ ضررعم زومآشناد اهدد) (دندرک تشادزاب),” *Hasht-e Subh*, March 23, 2023.

57 GCPEA, *Education under Attack 2022*, Afghanistan chapter.

58 BBC, “Afghanistan: Taliban ban women from universities amid condemnation,” *BBC News*, December 21, 2022.

59 A full list of references can be found on GCPEA’s website, [https://protectingeducation.org/wp-content/uploads/eua\\_2024\\_references.pdf](https://protectingeducation.org/wp-content/uploads/eua_2024_references.pdf)

60 *Afghan Peace Watch; Radio Salam Watandar*, as cited in ACLED, Event ID AFG63709. Scholars at Risk, Academic Freedom Monitor, Bamiyan University, April 02, 2022. “HRW Calls For Inquiries Into Fate of Female Protestors,” *Tolo News*, April 9, 2022. “Afghanistan: Two women detained and interrogated over protest against school closures for girls,” *The New Arab*, April 8, 2022.

61 *Etilaat e Roz; Rukhshana Media; Afghan Peace Watch*, as cited in ACLED, Event ID AFG64135. “Beating three female students for wearing colorful clothes in Balkh University (دندونم هتسب لیل د هب رتخد زومآشناد اهدد) (دندرک تشادزاب ار ای تکتپ ضررعم زومآشناد اهدد) (دندرک تشادزاب),” *Etilaat Roz*, May 16, 2022. “Taliban beat a female university student in Balkh,” *Rukhshana*, May 17, 2022.

62 *Hasht-e Subh*, as cited in ACLED, Event ID AFG64244. “Taliban took 4 students of a private university in Ghazni after beating them,” *Hasht-e Subh*, June 2, 2022.

63 *Hasht-e Subh; Twitter*, as cited in ACLED, Event ID AFG64362. “30 Female Students Arrested by Taliban From Takhar University,” *Rawa News*, June 17, 2022.

64 Scholars at Risk, Academic Freedom Monitor, Al-Biruni University, October 4, 2022. *Aamaj News; Rukhshana Media*, as cited in ACLED, Event ID AFG65358.

65 *RFE/RL Radio Azadi*, “‘Beaten And Humiliated’: Taliban Cracks Down On Afghan Universities In Bid To Curb Women’s Protests,” *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty*, November 8, 2022. “Video Shows Taliban Official Beating Female Students Outside Afghan University,” *NDTV*, November 2, 2022. “Compulsory Burqa, Taliban Suppressed Protesting Students in Badakhshan,” *Hasht-e Subh*, October 31, 2022. Scholars at Risk, Academic Freedom Monitor, Badakhshan University, October 30, 2022.

66 Scholars at Risk, Academic Freedom Monitor, Badakhshan University, March 28, 2023.

67 “Hazara Students Arrested and ‘Apostatized’; ‘Taliban Recruited Informants’ at Bamiyan University (دندونم هتسب لیل د هب رتخد زومآشناد اهدد) (دندرک تشادزاب ار ای تکتپ ضررعم زومآشناد اهدد) (دندرک تشادزاب),” *Etilaat e Roz*, July 3, 2023.