

# Israel

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Numerous attacks on schools were reported in Israel during the 2024-2025 reporting period. Most reported attacks identified by GCPEA involved the use of explosive weapons.

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## Context

Armed conflict between the Israeli armed forces and Lebanese and Palestinian armed groups, including Hezbollah, continued during the reporting period. Israel sustained regular cross-border attacks primarily along its northern border with Lebanon. These attacks escalated in September 2024, with Hezbollah increasing bombardment of northern Israel, including the launch of more than 100 projectiles in a single day in October that forced widespread sheltering and the closure of schools across the north.<sup>1</sup> Amnesty International documented Hezbollah's repeated use of unguided rockets into populated areas, which killed and wounded civilians, in violation of international humanitarian law.<sup>2</sup> In September 2024, three rocket strikes killed eight civilians and injured at least 16 others.<sup>3</sup> Infrastructure damage in northern Israel was extensive, with more than 2,800 buildings reported damaged, hundreds beyond repair, and agricultural production severely disrupted.<sup>4</sup> Escalation of conflict led to the evacuation of thousands of residents from border communities.<sup>5</sup> The bombardments and security risks displaced approximately 63,000 residents from northern Israel.<sup>6</sup>

Iran carried out several attacks targeting Israel during the 2024-2025 reporting period. For example, in April 2024, Iran launched hundreds of ballistic missiles, drones, and cruise missiles toward Israel in response to an Israeli strike on the Iranian Consulate in Syria.<sup>7</sup> The Israeli armed forces reported that the vast majority were intercepted outside the country. Authorities closed schools, workplaces, and public gatherings to minimize civilian exposure.<sup>8</sup> In August 2024, Yemen's Houthi forces (also known as Ansar Allah) escalated long-range drone and missile attacks against Israel, which were often intercepted before impact.<sup>9</sup>

Temporary school closures and restrictions on movement were implemented during heavy bombardments in 2024.<sup>10</sup> By July 2025, the Ministry of Education confirmed that schools in communities within range of Hezbollah's attacks would remain closed indefinitely, with displaced students continuing their education in relocation areas.<sup>11</sup> Schooling for northern communities was therefore disrupted for a second consecutive academic year.

Israel was not profiled in *Education under Attack 2024* so no comparison can be made with the previous reporting period.

## Attacks on schools

Numerous attacks on schools were identified in Israel during the 2024-2025 reporting period. However, due to data limitations, it was not possible for GCPEA to establish a definitive number.

As of October 8, 2024, the Education Ministry reported that 90 schools had been damaged in northern Israel, affecting 16,000 students, according to *Times of Israel*.<sup>12</sup> However, it was not clear how many of these attacks occurred in the current reporting period. Separately, the UN reported two attacks on schools in 2024.<sup>13</sup> GCPEA identified four attacks in 2024:

- On March 28, 2024, a gunman reportedly fired live ammunition at a school bus carrying Israeli students in Al Awja town, Jericho, West Bank, as reported by ACLED and local and international media.<sup>14</sup> One 13-year-old boy was reportedly injured.
- On July 21, 2024, a rocket reportedly hit a school in Kibbutz Dafna, Upper Galilee, Northern district, according to local media *Times of Israel*.<sup>15</sup> The school was empty at the time of the attack, and no injuries were reported.
- On October 1, 2024, a missile reportedly struck a school in Gedera, Shfela, Central District, damaging the school grounds, as reported by international media, *Middle East Eye*.<sup>16</sup>
- On December 19, 2024, missiles allegedly fired by Houthi forces reportedly hit an empty school in Ramat Gan neighborhood, Tel Aviv, as reported by ACLED and international media the *BBC*.<sup>17</sup>

GCPEA identified one attack on a school in 2025. On March 30, 2025, in Zur Hadassa, Jerusalem, a school was reportedly damaged by shrapnel when a missile allegedly fired toward Israel by Houthi forces was intercepted, according to ACLED and local media.<sup>18</sup>