SCHOOL ATTACKED –

<https://www.africa1.com/news/rdc-11-personnes-tuees-par-la-foudre-dans-l-ouest-147452>

<https://aclenet.org/news-publications/country-news/drc-congo-injuries/drc-2019.html>

**From:** Zukunft für Tshumbe <manuela@zukunft-fuer-tshumbe.or.at>
**Sent:** Monday, March 25, 2019 1:46 PM
**To:** Cooper, Mary Ann <macooper@uic.edu>
**Cc:** Holle Ron EXT <ron.holle@vaisala.com>; Born 1972 Children Richard Tushemereirwe <richadt2002@yahoo.com>; opio nicholas <opionick@gmail.com>
**Subject:** Re: DRC 11 people killed by lightning in the West, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Oh this is really, really sad!

I can imagine that the people did that and entered/robbed the school, which is really bad, because I think it is pretty similar to Tshumbe and the surrounded region: for example sometimes last year some children got killed by lightning in a school in Tshumbe and then the people also attacked the school, said that it was the fault of the director or the teachers, because they couldn't understand why the lightning hit the school. They thought (and still think) that the director or one of the teachers sent the lightning and killed the children. They even put some of the teachers and the director in prison, because police accused them of sending the lightning and the school was shut down.

The report I sent you some days ago about the six children, who were killed by lightning was risky for our organization too. Because the hut, where the children lived, was next to our organization's compound and two of those children were students of our kindergarten and school. So in the morning after it happened lots of people came to look and to get to know what happened. And then lots of police men came, they investigated a lot and wanted to know everything. They started accusing our regional coordinator that it is our organizations fault, that maybe we sent the thunder or someone of our team sent it, or someone who is close to us because they were jealous of those children who attended a good school. (But in reality the police only wants money, they know that I am from europe and they are looking for accusations to get money) At the end the village chief came and told everyone that this has nothing to do with us and that noone sent the thunder, it was nature and he sent the police away.

But that's why my team always says that the children should stay home (and not go to school that day) when it looks like thunder in the morning, because if a child get's hit by lightning in our school, then they put us or our staff in prison and accuse them of murder.

Conclusion: All that is because the people don't understand lightning and have no education in it. They believe that someone send's the lightning to someone else if they have a problem with each other or a person who gets killed by lightning was a "bad" person (had several wifes, hit his wifes, stole things,..) Or if a child get's killed, then it could be that the parents were "bad" people but the child has to suffer from it. Or people get hit, because other people are jealous of them and sent them the thunder.

It is very important to educate the people about it, which is not easy I think, because they won't change their believes which they grew up in from one day to the other.

Thank you for sharing this tragic event!

Am Mo., 25. März 2019 um 20:12 Uhr schrieb Cooper, Mary Ann <macooper@uic.edu>:

Wow!  ‘Nasty’ is not the word for it.  I can’t imagine why they attacked and looted the school!

**Manuela** – Is this a common response or merely a crime of convenience (with a convenient excuse of the deaths)?

**From:** Holle Ron EXT <ron.holle@vaisala.com>
**Sent:** Monday, March 25, 2019 12:06 PM
**To:** Cooper, Mary Ann <macooper@uic.edu>; Born 1972 Children Richard Tushemereirwe <richadt2002@yahoo.com>; opio nicholas <opionick@gmail.com>
**Subject:** DRC 11 people killed by lightning in the West, Democratic Republic of the Congo

 A very nasty event.

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Lightning Safety Awareness

[www.weather.gov/lightning](http://www.weather.gov/lightning)

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[Zukunft für Tshumbe](http://www.zukunft-fuer-tshumbe.or.at/)

Obfrau

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