

and her family were evacuated south. The conflict lasted for three months; by August, most of the Taliban had been pushed out of the cities and into the countryside, and it was safe to go home. After that, Malala launched a full-scale attack of her own. She became even bolder in her crusade. Her identity as the famous BBC blogger was revealed. She appeared in a *New York Times* documentary, went on television shows, and gave powerful speeches to Pakistani kids. Her message was always the same: All children deserve the right to an education. Malala's fears of retaliation did not subside, though. When asked on a Pakistani talk show about the dangers of speaking out, she eerily described how the Taliban might come for her one day: "I think of it often and imagine the scene clearly," she said. "Even if they come to kill me, I will tell them what they are trying to do is wrong, that education is our basic right." Malala's crusade empowered her and other girls. Her courage gave hope to thousands. It also made her a star. In 2011, the President of Pakistan awarded her the first ever National Youth Peace Prize. It seemed that everyone knew her name.

Including the Taliban.

In 2010, notes began appearing under Malala's door, ordering her to give up her crusade or else. But she refused to back down, and on October 9, 2012, Taliban gunmen shot her and two others on the school bus. The hours following the shooting were a nightmare. Malala's friends were not critically injured, but Malala was in bad shape. The bullet had destroyed her left ear and sent fragments of her skull into her brain tissue, but miraculously, she clung to life. She was flown to a hospital in Birmingham, in the United Kingdom, that specializes in traumatic brain injuries. Her family soon joined her. The Taliban soon took credit for the assassination attempt, saying it was a warning to other girls not to

Attacked

Pakistani students in the city of Karachi hold pictures of Malala during a protest condemning the attack on her.



HOW MANY KIDS DON'T GO TO SCHOOL?

There are 1.8 billion school-aged kids in the world. The 55.5 million in the U.S. have access to free public education. In other parts of the world, not everyone is so fortunate.

61

MILLION primary school-age kids do not go to school

71

MILLION adolescents do not go to school

60%

of out-of-school children in South and West Asia are girls

79%

of out-of-school children in North Africa are girls



1 in 5

15- to 24-year-olds in developing countries* have not completed primary school

*A developing country is one in which most people are poor and there is not yet much industry.