Palestinian Children in Israeli Military Detention

**Stages of Detention**

**Arrest**
- Israeli forces arrest children from their homes in the middle of the night, at demonstrations, or near military infrastructures such as checkpoints and the separation barrier.
- From the moment of arrest, 3 out of 4 Palestinian children experience some form of physical violence.
- This typically consists of being slapped, punched, kicked, or struck with a soldier’s helmet or rifle.

**Transfer**
- Once a child has been arrested, they are typically bound, blindfolded, and forced into a military vehicle.
- In the vehicle, children are often subject to physical violence and verbal abuse.
- The transfer period can last anywhere from several minutes to several hours.
- The child is not told where they are being taken.

**Interrogation**
- Children are most often interrogated at a police station or an interrogation center.
- They arrive bound, blindfolded, frightened, and sleep deprived.
-Interrogation techniques are mentally and physically coercive, with a clear purpose of obtaining a confession.
- In the vast majority of cases, children are denied access to legal counsel prior to and during interrogation.

**Hearing**
- Children appear before an Israeli military court within 24 to 72 hours of their arrest, depending on their age.
- This hearing is the first time children will see their attorney and parents since their arrest.
- The overwhelming majority of Palestinian children are held in custodial pretrial detention.
- Hearings are conducted in Hebrew with Arabic translation.

**Sentence**
- There are three parts to a military court sentence: imprisonment, a fine, and a suspended sentence.
- About half of child detainees will receive a custodial sentence of 3 to 12 months. Depending on the circumstances, some receive longer sentences of 1 to 3 years.
- No person under age 12 can be prosecuted in the military courts.

Each year the Israeli military arrests and prosecutes around **700 Palestinian children**.

From arrest, Palestinian children encounter **ill-treatment & torture** at the hands of Israeli forces.

**Three out of four** experience some form of physical violence following arrest.

The No Way to Treat a Child campaign seeks to challenge Israel’s prolonged military occupation of Palestinians by exposing widespread and systematic ill-treatment of Palestinian children in the Israeli military detention system. It is a project of Defense for Children International - Palestine and American Friends Service Committee.

**Sources**