



A joint project of:
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No Way to Treat a Child Fact Sheet

Did you know...

- Israel is the **only country in the world** that systematically prosecutes between 500 and 700 children in a military court system each year.
- Ill-treatment of Palestinian children arrested by Israeli forces is **widespread, systematic, and institutionalized**. **Three out of four children experience physical violence** at some point following arrest.
- Amid escalating violence on the ground since October 2015, Palestinian children have been living under an **increasingly militarized environment** and subject to disproportionate violence.
- In October 2015, Israel renewed its use of **administrative detention against Palestinian children** for the first time in four years. Administrative detention is a process whereby a child is **detained without charge or trial, often renewable indefinitely**. Defense for Children International - Palestine collected comprehensive data showing **14 minors were placed under administrative detention in 2016**.
- Israeli authorities are **increasingly using solitary confinement for interrogation purposes, a practice amounting to torture under international law**. In 2016, DCIP documented 25 cases of children held in solitary confinement for interrogation purposes for an average period of 16 days. The longest period of isolation for a child last year was 29 days.
- **Children under 18 years old now represent 46 percent of the 4.68 million Palestinians living in the occupied Palestinian territory**. This generation of Palestinians is growing up under the shadow of failed negotiations and implementation, with a future stifled by systematic discrimination, settlement expansion, and a prolonged military occupation with no end in sight.
- **The US government is well-aware of this issue - we just need to push them to take action!** Since 2007, each **State Department annual human rights country report** on Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory has highlighted these issues. In 2015, **19 members of Congress signed a letter to Secretary of State John Kerry**, urging him to prioritize this issue in the US government's bilateral relationship with Israel. One year later, **20 members of Congress called for concrete action, this time in a letter to President Barack Obama**, urging him to appoint a Special Envoy for Palestinian children. In 2017, **over 11,000 people signed a petition to Secretary of State Rex Tillerson**, demanding Israel be held accountable for these widespread and systematic human rights abuses.

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 the *American Friends Service Committee*. Learn more at: www.nowaytotreatachild.org | www.dci-palestine.org | www.afsc.org