



**DCI/PS**



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- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)
- Children at Risk
- Office of the Canadian Representative to the Palestinian Authority
- Canada Fund for Local Initiatives

Additionally, we want to express our thanks to all the various individuals who volunteered their time and effort in the field, and in our offices, raising awareness about children's rights and helping us fulfill our role as the only Palestinian NGO specialized in working to promote and protect the rights of Palestinian children.



# About DCI/PS

Defence for Children International/ Palestine Section (DCI/PS), established in 1992, is affiliated with the Geneva-based Defence for Children International, a non-governmental organization established in 1979, with consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, UNICEF, UNESCO, and the Council of Europe. Though affiliated with an international network, DCI/PS is an independent, Palestinian non-governmental organization, which develops its programs and acts according to Palestinian children's needs and Palestinian priorities.

DCI/PS implements programs focusing on legal aid, advocacy, and support for Palestinian children whose rights are violated. In striving to eradicate all such violations, DCI/PS facilitates comprehensive awareness campaigns, in cooperation with local and international community bodies and educational institutions, in order to deepen public understanding of children's rights and to strengthen the sense of collective responsibility for promoting and safeguarding these rights. DCI/PS is dedicated to promoting and protecting the rights of Palestinian children in the West Bank and Gaza- as articulated in the United Nations

Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as in other international human rights instruments - and to facilitating the creation of an environment which is aware of and respects children's rights.

## Institutional Objectives

- To advocate respect for Palestinian children's rights, and mobilize and equip the local and international community to act in defence of those rights.
- To serve as a legal reference through providing protection and legal support to Palestinian children.
- To assist in developing legislation which protects children in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- To act as a reliable resource center for information concerned with Palestinian children's rights.
- To play an effective role in monitoring the Palestinian child rights and document violations in a scientific way and to take the proper actions as needed.
- To work with Palestinian children to empower them and raise awareness of



their rights at all levels, through child-to-child methodology, as well as to facilitate their effective participation in defending their rights and their active role in Palestinian society.

- To create a strong network of grassroots, local, and international organizations acting in the best interest of Palestinian children.
- To relay to the local and international community, effectively and efficiently, the conditions in which Palestinian children live and communicate the importance of recognizing and defending children's rights.

# M

## Major accomplishments

### Legal Aid and Representation:

Since its founding, the backbone of the organization's work has been legal aid for Palestinian children. The Legal Aid Program of DCI/PS has provided legal advice and representation to hundreds of Palestinian children.

### Documentation of Children's Rights:

DCI/PS is the only Palestinian NGO that specializes in documenting violations of Palestinian children's rights, both individual & collective violations.

**Research:** Over the last five years, DCI/PS has produced a yearly violations report that documents & analyzes the situation of Palestinian children—the only local Palestinian organization to regularly produce such a report. In 2001, a comprehensive 300-page report entitled *A Generation Denied*, which deals with the impact of Israel's human rights violations during the Palestinian Intifada on Palestinian children, was published and widely circulated.

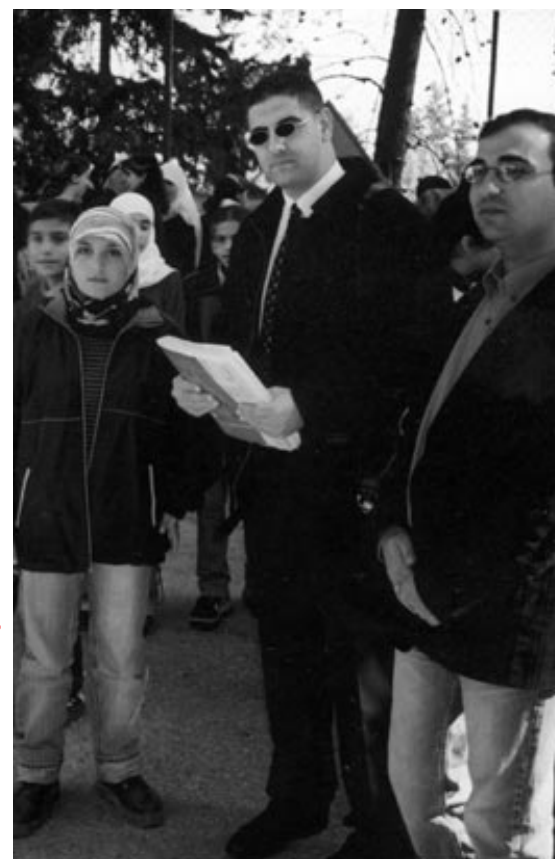


**Media coverage and Outreach:** DCI/PS regularly issues press releases and action alerts detailing the status of children's rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and has activated its website, making accessible to the local and international community, a wealth of information on the issue of Palestinian children's rights and the conditions in which they live.

**Advocacy:** DCI/PS has presented oral and/or written statements and reports to the UN High Commission on Human Rights, UN Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. DCI/PS has also engaged in a wide variety of advocacy efforts, mobilizing international activists in support of Palestinian children's rights. In September 2001, DCI/PS launched an international campaign, **FREEDOM NOW: Campaign to Free Palestinian Child Political Prisoners** (<http://www.dci-pal.org/prisonweb/childprisoners.html>).

**Capacity-building and community work:** The organization has offered an array of services to Palestinian children whose rights have

been violated and has organized numerous educational activities to increase children's life skills and promote their active participation in the community. In addition, DCI/PS has implemented awareness campaigns and training courses in the local community, in order to deepen public understanding of children's rights, to strengthen the sense of collective responsibility for promoting and safeguarding these rights.



# Introduction

✖ When the first Palestinian Intifada began in December 1987, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) did not exist. When the Convention came into force in 1990, Palestinians working on children's issues hoped that this would be a powerful tool in building a better future for Palestinian children. However, while significant advancements have been made in terms of awareness on the international level, the status of Palestinian children's rights remains as jeopardized as ever.

In 1992, five years after the beginning of the first Intifada, DCI/PS was founded by a group of child rights activists with the aim of fulfilling the vision of a better life for Palestinian children. The biggest obstacle DCI/PS had to overcome at the time was how to deal with the effects of Israel's attempt to crush the first Intifada. How could DCI/PS achieve a brighter reality and a healthy environment for Palestinian children - respectful of their rights and offering a future with the chance to learn, play and grow? DCI/PS based its work on the understanding that the end of the Israeli occupation is the critical step in fulfilling this vision; however, we also understood that efforts had to be made in combating the direct effects of the occupation on children. The occupation kills Palestinian children - mentally, psychologically, socially and physically - and it robs them of hope for a better future.



Ten years later, this reality is clearer than ever. DCI/PS's work on all levels in the past 10 years has proven without a doubt that the Israeli occupation is the direct cause of the gravest violations of children's rights. The occupation is a system of control that governs all aspects of the lives of approximately three million Palestinians residing in the occupied territories, 53% of whom are children. The implementation of this system results in gross human rights violations and prevents the fulfillment of child rights embodied in the CRC. The dismal reality for Palestinian children is that they live in an environment where they suffer collective and simultaneous violations of their rights at all times. In the course of one day, the average Palestinian child residing in the occupied territories faces violations of his/her right to life

and security, health, education, freedom of liberty, and freedom of movement, among others. These violations not only impact the child's day, they constitute a major obstacle to the child's healthy development, and, thus, impede the child's prospects for a bright future.

At the same time, DCI/PS's experience during this Intifada has shown that the understanding of the root causes of the conflict remain as misunderstood as ever. While gross and systematic violations of Palestinian children's rights are well documented, reporting of the situation often fails both to reflect the extent of child rights violations or to enumerate the causes and perpetrators in a way that is understandable for the average, uninformed reader. Thus, the myth of the conflict as one based on religious



hatred or equal and competing claims is reinforced. Combined with this is a lack of concrete action on the part of the international community to directly intervene to improve the situation. Instead, the reality on the ground is obfuscated by repeated claims to 'end the violence.' DCI/PS believes strongly that the situation will not improve until the root cause is addressed, that is the occupation.

It is within this context that DCI/PS undertook its work in defence of Palestinian children's rights in the year 2001. Intensified restrictions on freedom of movement, along with the continued massive onslaught of child rights violations, made the past year by far the most difficult and challenging in DCI/PS' history. Measures of collective punishment carried out by the Israeli military as well as direct attacks on children were the two main factors resulting in gross violations of children's rights in 2001.

Restrictions on freedom of movement, including checkpoints, closures, and curfews, resulted in isolating Palestinian villages and cities from one other, led to a further decline



in the economic situation, and had a devastating affect on Palestinian children in 2001. Movement restrictions prevented more than 13,000 Palestinian children from their right to education in the old city of Hebron for instance. Gaining access to medical facilities and clinics was extremely difficult, if not impossible, and in nine reported cases in 2001, pregnant women were forced to give birth on checkpoints leading to the deaths of three newly born children. During the year 2001, unemployment rose to 35% and the percentage of children living under the poverty line increased to over 50%. Workers in national and international humanitarian agencies were targeted too; decreasing their ability to provide essential goods and services to Palestinian civilians.

Other measures of collective punishment, such as home demolitions, led to the destruction of more than 478 houses, leaving homeless 1,812 Palestinian children. In addition, thousands of dwellings were damaged as a result of Israeli attacks on Palestinian residential areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, depriving thousands of Palestinian children of their right to adequate housing. Seventy-one Palestinian schools came under Israeli attack either through tank shelling or rockets fired from helicopters. In some cases, school students were present during these attacks. Some schools were partially destroyed. Remains of rocket missiles were located in some schools endangering the lives of students. Other schools were bombarded during school hours such as Shahidayn Al Ibrahmiyyeh School in Jenin, and the National School for the Blind in Al Bireh. DCI/PS documented 98 cases of schools fired at by Israeli soldiers using live ammunition, rubber-coated steel bullets or tear gas. In some cases, school students were present during these attacks. The Israeli army took over



five schools and turned them into military bases, after the students and faculty were forcefully evacuated. Eight schools were closed by military order, preventing students from attending school for varied periods of time.

In 2001, the organization documented 98 cases of child death as a direct result of Israeli military and settler presence in the occupied territories, including 12 children who were killed during Israeli assassination attempts against Palestinian activists. Two characteristics of the Israeli violence stand out in a comparison of child deaths and injuries between 2000 and 2001. Israeli forces killed significantly younger children in 2001 than in comparison with the year 2000 and they did so with a much higher level of force. DCI/PS research indicates that the percentage of Palestinian children killed under the age of thirteen doubled from the year 2000 to the year 2001. More than 1/3 of children killed in the year 2001 were under the age of 12. The vast majority of Palestinian children were killed going about their daily lives in circumstances



where they should have been completely safe from Israeli aggression. They were not presenting any threat to the lives of Israeli soldiers or settlers. There can be no moral justification for these deaths. They must be unequivocally condemned and the perpetrators brought to justice.

DCI/PS documented 3,750 cases of children injured by the Israeli army and settlers, while the Red Crescent Society estimates the total number of injured children ranged between 6000 and 7000 children during the year 2001. The sheer volume of child injury, along with strict military closures and sieges of Palestinian towns and villages often prevented field researchers from reaching all injured children.

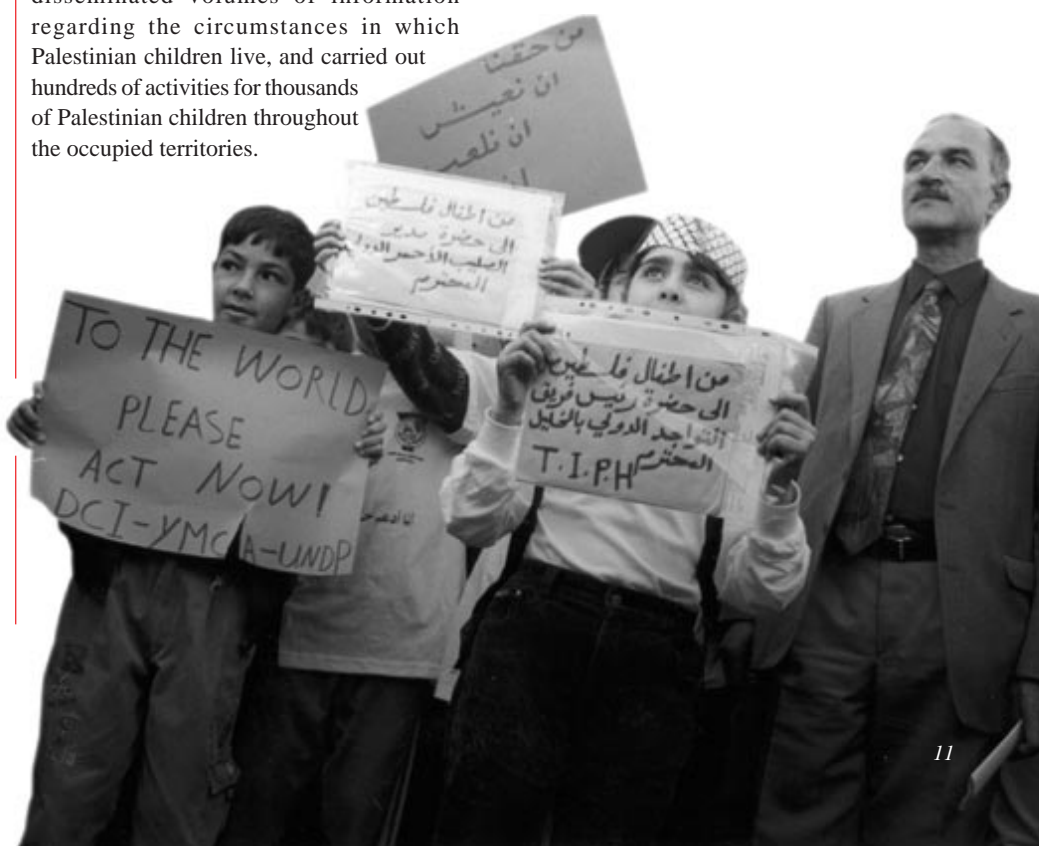
Moreover, thousands of children lost a parent, hundreds were arrested, tortured, & imprisoned, and thousands traumatized. The cumulative psychological effects of the last two years on children have been immense. Air strikes, shelling, missile attacks and forceful entry into houses have traumatized children and will take many years of intensive, serious work to treat.

In dealing with this situation, the organization was challenged to be as flexible and creative as possible in undertaking work in spite of the objective obstacles repeatedly placed on the ground as part of Israeli occupation policy. Thus, one of the organization's foremost goals has been to raise awareness of the effects of Israeli policy through disseminating information about the status of children living under such conditions, in addition to working with children directly to alleviate the effects of the occupation, closure and curfews on them.

As this report highlights, in 2001 DCI/PS continued to provide hundreds of Palestinian children with legal aid services, documented thousands of violations of Palestinian children's rights, conducted research and disseminated volumes of information regarding the circumstances in which Palestinian children live, and carried out hundreds of activities for thousands of Palestinian children throughout the occupied territories.

The information that follows outlines the main work of DCI/PS in 2001, implemented within the framework of three main programs. In addition, it highlights the cross-cutting research and advocacy work the organization engaged in, discusses developments on the administrative level and elaborates on the main obstacles encountered in the process of carrying out work in the past year and the ways in which the organization overcame them.

Though 2001 has been an extremely trying one, DCI/PS believes that it has also taught us valuable lessons that will assist in more efficiently and effectively working to promote and protect Palestinian children's rights in an environment of ongoing crisis.



# S

## Strategic Planning



The year 2001 marked the final year of DCI/Palestine Section's existing action plan, for the years 1999 – 2001. As such, beginning in April 2001, DCI/PS launched an internal strategic planning process designed to develop the organization's plan of action for the coming three year period, 2002 – 2004. This process was influenced by a number of factors, including the conclusion of the organization's previous three year plan as well as the changes on the ground resulting from the Intifada.

At the forefront of these discussions was the ways in which the situation on the ground had impacted the work of the organization and how the work of the organization had impacted the situation on the ground. Following the beginning of the Intifada, DCI/PS responded to the increased needs of the community by implementing a Crisis Intervention project, which was carried out in two phases. By the time of the planning workshops in July 2001, the Intifada was in its tenth month and it had become quite clear that the situation on the ground most probably would continue for an indeterminable length of time, the "emergency" situation had become the status quo. Given this reality, it became clear that DCI/PS could not continue working according to "emergency" plans, but, instead, must determine how they can work towards sustainable change in the midst of a very trying situation on the ground.

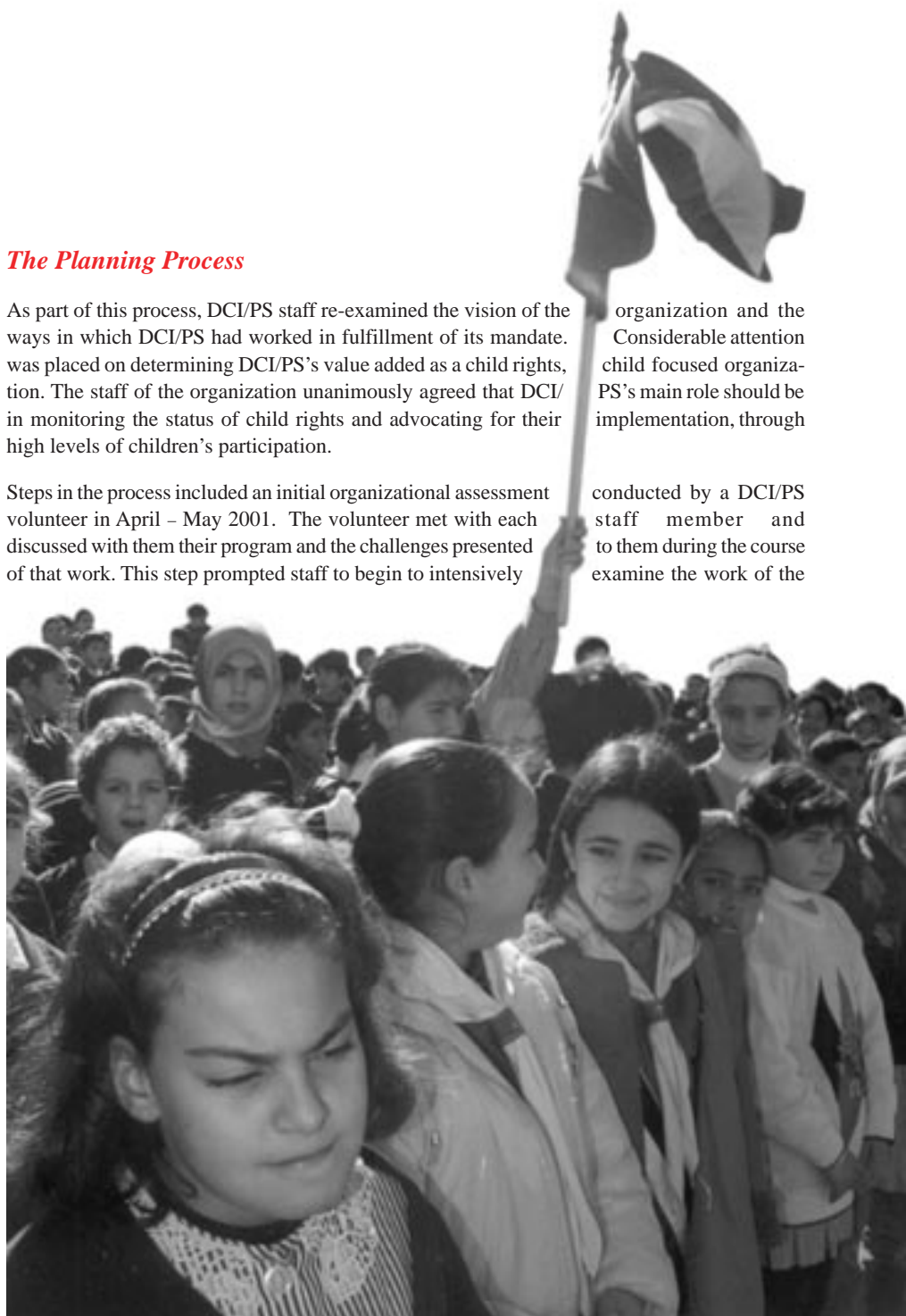
### *The Planning Process*

As part of this process, DCI/PS staff re-examined the vision of the ways in which DCI/PS had worked in fulfillment of its mandate. was placed on determining DCI/PS's value added as a child rights, tion. The staff of the organization unanimously agreed that DCI/ in monitoring the status of child rights and advocating for their high levels of children's participation.

Steps in the process included an initial organizational assessment volunteer in April – May 2001. The volunteer met with each discussed with them their program and the challenges presented of that work. This step prompted staff to begin to intensively

organization and the Considerable attention child focused organiza- PS's main role should be implementation, through

conducted by a DCI/PS staff member and to them during the course examine the work of the



organization, in direct relation to the situation on the ground, and determine the most effective and efficient way of carrying-out the action plan.

The peak of the planning process occurred from 6 to 9 July 2001, when the entire DCI/PS staff engaged in four days of strategic planning workshops designed to determine the vision and the plan for the organization for the coming three year period. The workshop resulted in a number of recommendations affecting the work of the organization.

In discussing the successful, efficient implementation of the plan, much focus was placed on the structure of the organization. Since its establishment in 1992, the organization has had a program based organizational structure, wherein projects were implemented within the framework of three main programs: Legal, Education, and Social. The planning process provided an opportunity for staff to discuss the efficacy of this structure and to what extent it either assisted or impeded the successful implementation of the organization's work.

The outcome of those discussions was a general consensus that the program-based structure no longer made sense for the ways in which the organization's work had developed over the years. For instance, key components of the work of the Educational and Social Programs often overlapped, particularly in terms of capacity building and awareness raising activities for the local community. In addition, the old structure lacked the necessary space for the full development of the organization's research work and the full integration of its advocacy work. As the situation on the ground changed considerably following the beginning of the

Intifada, with a gross increase in violations of Palestinian children's rights and an increase in DCI/PS's role on the international level, it was clear that such work deserved and needed a special cadre of staff devoted to developing it.

The outcome of these considerations was a new organizational structure, function-based and organized in specialized units. Effective 1 January 2002, the organization implemented its new structure, based on four complementary units, as follows: Legal Aid; Documentation; Research and International Advocacy; and Training and Social Mobilization.

### ***Building Local Capacities- Changes in Priorities***

With reference to work in the field, DCI/PS staff evaluated the long period of experience the organization has gathered in this regard. In particular, given the need for increased local capacity in providing psycho-social services for children, discussion was focused on the ways in which the organization can contribute to fulfilling those needs. Staff members recalled that when the DCI/PS Counseling project was established, it was the first of its kind in Hebron area. After many years of implementation, and particularly after the beginning of the Intifada, there were numerous projects focusing on providing psycho-social services to children. While initially the organization had been unique in providing such services, at the time of the planning sessions, it was one of many organizations working in this field.

Turning to the question of what added value the organization's work can provide, two factors became apparent: first, the organization is



unique in that it carries out such work from a child focused, child rights perspective; and, second, the organization has accumulated many years of experience and is thus uniquely qualified to build the capacity of other local groups. Another factor discussed was how to maximize the impact of the organization's work, most effectively reaching the highest number of beneficiaries, within the capacity of DCI/PS as a small organization. As such, the staff agreed that DCI/PS should focus its efforts on sharing its experience with the local community through building the capacity of local staff to deal with the psycho-social needs of children.

DCI/PS believes strongly that the adjustments made both to the organizational structure and to the content of the work itself, will enable the organization to more efficiently and effectively work towards fulfillment of its mandate, that of promoting and protecting the rights of Palestinian children. Moreover, it believes it will maximize the impact of DCI/PS's role as the only child rights organization operating in the occupied territories, and minimize the chance for duplication of the work of other organizations or institutions operating locally. Finally, it believes that the new plan of action successfully factors in the changes on the ground and allows for the implementation of activities that will result in sustainable change.





**DCI/PS Programs 2001**

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# 1

## 1. Legal Program

### ***Long-Term Program Goal:***

To protect the legal rights of Palestinian children in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and Gaza Strip and to facilitate the creation of an environment which is aware of and respects children's rights.

### ***Specific Objectives:***

- a. To decrease the suffering of Palestinian children and families, by providing free legal advice and representation to children, whose rights have been violated.
- b. To strengthen local capacity by facilitating information exchange among human rights organizations and other groups working with children, enhancing networking and coordination and initiating preparatory work for the reform of Palestinian laws related to children.
- c. To raise the awareness of children, parents, and the community at large, both locally and internationally, regarding the legal rights of Palestinian children.

The Legal Program works on a variety of levels to advocate for respect for Palestinian children's rights, in particular through legal representation, and documentation. DCI/PS lawyers carry out the legal aid work by providing children with free legal representation before Israeli military courts, by petitioning the high court when necessary, and by visiting children in detention centers and jails to provide moral and material support.

The second part of the Program is carried out by the Documentation Officer at DCI/PS and includes compiling a comprehensive database of violations against Palestinian children, including numbers and detailed information about children killed, injured, and affected due to Israeli practices since the beginning of the

Intifada. The Documentation Officer's work is assisted with the aid of a team of field volunteers in the various Palestinian areas.

Given the ongoing crisis situation on the ground, characterized by widespread violations of children's rights by Israeli military forces and illegal Israeli settlers, combined with Israeli attacks on Palestinian communities that resulted in the failure of many Palestinian Authority institutions to function appropriately, the bulk of the Legal Program's work focused on issues concerning the Israeli occupation, except where noted.

**Release All Palestinian  
Children Political  
Prisoners**



## ■ Legal Aid

### *General Background:*



Since 1967, the Israeli occupation authorities have arrested, interrogated, tortured and incarcerated Palestinian children for their political activity.<sup>1</sup> Each year, DCI/PS represents hundreds of these minors before the Israeli military courts and follows up their conditions of detention.

The Israeli military forces intensified their attacks against Palestinian children during the past year in an unprecedented manner. Ninety-eight children were killed in the year 2001, thousands of children detained, alongside thousands injured, including tens with permanent disabilities.

Arrest campaigns in 2001 included all Palestinian areas, including checkpoints, border points or areas classified as B and C according to Oslo agreements, (areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip under partial and full Israeli control-respectively). In addition, the Israeli army reoccupied A areas (areas under full Palestinian control) where they conducted mass arrests, including the arrests of children.

During the year 2001, Israeli military forces arrested more than 650 Palestinian children, 50% of those arrested were from the Jerusalem area. The children are initially detained in Israeli interrogation centers and must stand trial in front of unjust and discriminatory Israeli military courts. Throughout the year 2001, there were between 150 and 220 Palestinian children regularly detained in Israeli prisons.

Israeli's continued pattern of child arrest was characterized in 2001 by the following:

- Mass and indiscriminate arrests of Palestinian children.
- Continued use of violent mistreatment and torture, utilized to both pressure children to confess and as punishment in prison.
- Increased restrictions on Palestinian human rights lawyers access to prisoners.
- Increased sentence lengths for same charges.
- Virtually no family visits (also resulting in lack of essential items for prisoners, such as warm clothes, changes of underclothes, etc.).
- Continued dismal detention conditions.

The arrests of 2001 are part of the ongoing arrest campaign undertaken against children during the last four years. In the year 1998, for instance, DCI/PS legally represented 89 children arrested by the Israeli military. The number rose to 202 in the year 1999 and reached 252 children in the year 2000. DCI/PS followed up with the lawsuits of 183 children out of the total number of detainees in the year 2001. Though this number is less than in previous years, DCI/PS does believe that it does not indicate an improvement in the situation, but rather is due to restrictions on freedom of movement that intensified in 2001, decreasing the ability of families to seek DCI/PS's services. As in previous years, the majority of children arrested and detained are accused of throwing stones at Israeli soldiers and settlers.

It is a universally accepted standard of international law that the detention of a child should be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time. It has been DCI/PS's repeated experience that the Israeli policy towards Palestinian children is that detention is a measure of "first resort." Since its establishment, DCI/PS has not had one case of a Palestinian child, between 14 and 17 years of age, who was found guilty of committing an "offence" by an Israeli military court, receiving a sentence of anything either than a prison sentence. In addition, our experience in the last two years alone indicates that instead of adhering to the principle of the "shortest appropriate period of time," the length of sentences issued to Palestinian children is actually getting longer.

Cases Followed Up by the DCI/PS in the year 2001:

Due to the deteriorating situation on the ground, the DCI/PS Legal Program was faced with a number of obstacles, including internal Israeli imposed closures which restrict Palestinian movement within the occupied territories, repeated military attacks on Palestinian communities, and increasing restrictions imposed against Palestinian human rights lawyers. In spite of this, the Legal Program succeeded in handling 183 cases, 94 of which were closed before Israeli military courts in 2001. The following tables provide additional details about the cases the Program handled, including type of case, the ages of arrested children, lengths of sentences, among others. ►

<sup>1</sup> For more information on the situation of Palestinian child political prisoners, see the website for the Campaign to Free Palestinian Child Political Prisoners, <http://www.dci-pal.org/english/prisonweb/childprisoners.html>, as well as DCI/PS Annual Reports 1999 and 2000, and "A Generation Denied; Israeli Violation's of Palestinian Children's Rights 2000," DCI/PS, May 2001.



In 2001, there was an increased number cases upheld in front of the Parole Committee. Though there was greater success in bringing cases before the Committee, the number of cases won was less than the year 2000. The main reason for this is a new policy applied by these committees refusing to release the detainees presented to them.

In addition, there was an increase in the number of cases to transfer the detainees from interrogation centers to regular prisons that are more suitable for children, in that they have relatively better conditions of detention. There is a clear and deliberate policy on the part of the military authorities in delay the transfer of Palestinian child detainees to the prisons. Thus, children end up spending longer periods in interrogation centers.

A new phenomenon that emerged in the year 2001 was that of administrative detention; there were two cases in the year 2001, whereas there were no cases in the previous year. This is a clear indication of the increase of brutality practiced by the occupation authorities against Palestinian children. Administrative detention is a form of arrest that consists of trial before a military judge on the basis of "secret evidence". The detainee is not charged with any offence but is detained for up to 6 months. The administrative detention order can be renewed repeatedly.\*

#### Distribution of Cases according to Type of Case

TYPE OF CASE	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Military Court	115	62.84%
Parole Committee <sup>2</sup>	29	15.85%
Transfer to Other Prison	21	11.48%
Military Appeals Court	5	2.73%
Compensation Cases	3	1.64%
Administrative Detention	2	1.09%
Others	8	4.37%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### \*Distribution of Cases according to Geographic Region

REGION	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
South	111	60.66%
Middle	53	28.96%
North	19	10.38%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### Distribution of Cases according to Age Group

AGE GROUP	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
13 - 14 years	31	16.94%
15-16 years	79	43.17%
17-18 years	73	39.89%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### Distribution of closed cases according to Length of Sentence

LENGTH OF SENTENCE	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Less than one month	19	20.21%
1 month to 6 mos.	14	14.89%
6 mos - 1 year	46	48.94%
More than one year	15	15.96%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>2</sup> Parole committees review the sentence of a prisoner after he/she has served two-thirds of their sentence.

As mentioned previously, and as reflected in the comparative analysis below, the length of cases issued to Palestinian children is growing longer. In 1999, 43.51% of the cases we represented, received a sentence of less than one month. In the year 2001, that percentage has decreased to 20.21%. Conversely, in 1999 only 19.08% of cases received a sentence of six months to one

year, and 6.88% received sentences of more than one year. In 2001, however, 48.94% of cases were sentenced to between six months and one year and 15.96% to more than one year. In other words, there has been a 156% increase in cases receiving sentences of between six months and one year, and a 132% increase in cases receiving sentences of more than one year. It should be

noted that the charges for which Palestinian children are arrested and detained have remained the same. The overwhelming majority of children are sentenced on the charge of stone throwing. Punishment for throwing stones now starts at a seven month prison sentence and a financial fine starts with a thousand NIS to several thousand.

#### A Comparative Analysis of DCI/PS Cases from 1999 – 2001

Breakdown	1999	2000	2001
<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Cases/ Percentage</b>		
12 years	12 / 5.94%	-0-	-0-
13-14	20 / 9.90%	55 / 21.83%	31/ 16.94%
15-16	87 / 43.07%	118 / 46.83%	79/43.17%
17-18	83 / 41.09%	79 / 31.34%	73/39.89%
<b>Total No. of Cases</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>183</b>
<b>Duration of Sentence</b>	<b>Cases / Percentage</b>		
Less than 1 month	57 / 43.51	22 / 35.48%	19/20.21%
1 - 6 months	40 / 30.53%	9 / 14.5%	14/14.89%
6 months - 1 year	25 / 19.08%	25 / 40.3%	46/48.94%
More than 1 year	9 / 6.88%	6 / 9.7%	15/15.96%
<b>Total No. of Sentences</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>94</b>

#### Prison and Detention Center Visits:

During the year 2001, the Legal Program continued to arrange regular visits to interrogation centers in the occupied territories and prisons inside Israel. The aim of these visits is to monitor the circumstances inside the prisons and to pressure the administration to improve these circumstances. A total of 50 visits were carried out in 2001, as follows:

Facility	No. of Visits
Megiddo	13
Telmond (Hasharon & Ofek)	18
Ramle	12
Ashkelon	2
Etzion Interrogation Center	1
Beit El Interrogation Center	2
Moskabiyya	2

### ***Detention Centers***

Usually, arrested children spend the initial period following their arrest in Israeli interrogation centers, military camps and settlements in the occupied territories. The circumstances of detention in these centers are very difficult. After that, children are transferred to detention facilities according to their ages. Male children below sixteen years old are transferred to Telmond compound while male children sixteen and over are transferred to Megiddo military prison. Female children are transferred to Ramle (Neve Tertze) prison.

During the year 2001, the legal program followed up 21 cases of transferring detainees from interrogation centers to prisons. The interrogation centers' administration continually delayed transferring arrested children to prisons. Consequently, some children spent months in detention centers.



**The main characteristics of the interrogation centers can be summarized as follows:**

- a-** These centers are set up for temporary detention, where detainees are supposed to spend a short identified period of time. However, in many cases, children are kept in these centers until the investigation is finished. Sometimes the detention period is extended until the procedures are completed. This period does not usually exceed two weeks, but it was noticeable this year that children spent periods that reached several months in such facilities. The situation required the Legal Program's intervention and we presented several complaints to the Attorney General requesting the transfer of these children to prison. Cases that are not followed adequately, unfortunately, usually result in children spending months in these centers. An example of this situation is the child Shadi Abu Fkheida who spent four months in Beit El military camp. As soon as his case was received by DCI/PS, the program presented a request to transfer him to a suitable prison, something which his initial attorney had failed to do.
- b-** These centers are administered by the Israeli army. Essential requirements for a long-term stay are not available, such as books, clothes, and recreation opportunities. Increasing the need for such basic necessities is that family visits are not permitted and there exist numerous obstacles impeding the regular visits of attorneys.
- c-** Family members and lawyers trying to access these centers put themselves at risk, as the trips can be life threatening because of settler attacks. The centers are located inside Israeli military camps inside illegal Israeli settlements.
- d-** There is no privacy for children in these centers and there is no distinction between adult and child prisoners. Children 16 and 17 years old are defined as adults in these centers. However, there are no special procedures or considerations for children that "fit" their definition (under 16 years), with the occasional exception of putting them in separated rooms when available.
- e-** Throughout the year, these centers were continually over-crowded because of the ongoing arrest campaigns. A large number of detainees were put in each room resulting in a shortage of beds, clothes, and covers. Throughout the year 2001, the number of detainees in each room was between 15-20 detained children.
- f-** Detainees are subjected to beatings and are tear-gassed inside the rooms, in spite of international prohibitions on spraying tear-gas at detainees and in closed areas. DCI/PS presented four complaints to the army prosecutor in the West Bank regarding the dismal detention circumstances and inhumane treatment of detainees inside these centers. The prosecutor promised to solve these problems.

## Prisons

Detainees are held in two kinds of prisons, military prisons and central prisons:

**Military Prisons:** these prisons are supervised by the army and administrated by the military police. The only prison of this kind is Megiddo prison. Detainees sixteen years old and over are transferred to this prison. Pursuant to Military Order No. 132, children sixteen and over are considered adults. Thus, there is no distinction between adult and child prisoners detained in Megiddo. During the year 2001, the number of children in this prison was generally between 60- 90.

**Central Prisons:** Administered by what is called the Israel Prison Service these prisons are part of the Ministry of Public Security. These prisons are located inside Israel; Palestinian children are imprisoned in the following facilities:

■ Telmond Prison: The Telmond compound contains two facilities that detain Palestinian child political prisoners, as follows:

**i. Hasharon:** A prison for both children and adults (Palestinian child political prisoners and Israeli adult prisoners). It includes two sections, 7 and 8, designated for “security prisoners” i.e. Palestinian child political prisoners. Throughout the year, the number of detained Palestinian children in this prison ranged between 55- 80 children, aged between 14-18 years old.

**ii. Ofek:** Opened towards the end of the year 1999, the prison is designed to hold criminal Israeli juvenile detainees. However, the facility also holds a number of Palestinian child political prisoners. Throughout the year,

there has continually been between 15- 25 Palestinian children detained in this prison. DCI/PS presented three complaints against the prison administration for the mistreatment of children in this prison, calling for the transfer of the political prisoners from Ofek facility to the adjacent Hasharon prison. The administration promised to solve this problem, and some detainees were transferred from Ofek to Hasharon. However, the Palestinian child political prisoners continue to be transferred into Ofek, rather than Hasharon.

■ Ramle Prison (Neve Tertze): This prison is designated for Israeli criminal females detainees. However, it has become regular practice to detain female Palestinian prisoners, both children and adults, in Ramle. Throughout 2001, the number of Palestinian female child detainees ranged between three to four detainees.

### *Main Issues Followed Up by the DCI/PS Legal Program*

#### **Denial of Lawyer and Family Visits:**

The right of detained children to lawyer and family visits is considered a basic right of juveniles deprived of their liberty and enshrined in international law. Article 37 of the CRC outlines this right, stating that “(e)very child deprived of liberty...shall have the right to maintain contact with his or her family through correspondence and visits, save in exception circumstances,” and that “(e)very child deprived of his or her liberty shall have the right to prompt access to legal and other appropriate assistance, as well as the right to challenge the legality of the deprivation of his or her liberty before a court or other competent,



independent and impartial authority, and to a prompt decision on any such action. Similarly, the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (Beijing Rules) note that “(t)hroughout the proceedings the juvenile shall have the right to be represented by a legal adviser or to apply for free legal aid where there is provision for such aid in the country» (26.5). The Beijing Rules also address the issue of family visits, placing this right within the context of the “best interests” of the child approach, stating that “(I)n the interest and well-being of the institutionalized juvenile, the parents or guardians shall have a right of access.”

There have been virtually no family visits for children from the West Bank since the beginning of the Intifada in September 2000, due to the strict Israeli imposed closure on the occupied territories. Families that managed to reach prison facilities in spite of the closure were refused entrance, informed that they did not possess the required permits from the Israeli military leader of the area. The majority



of children, some of whom served sentences of over 10 months, are released before their families were able to visit them.

From the beginning of the year 2001, the Israeli authorities placed obstacles impeding Palestinian lawyers' visits. Sometimes, lawyers were denied permission to visit and sometimes they were forced to wait for hours at the entrances of prisons before they were allowed to enter. Sometimes, the lawyers were not allowed to visit the sentenced detainees and were only allowed to visit interrogated detainees after presenting official authorization and court protocol that includes the lawyers name to prove that s/he represents the detainee.

During the year 2001, the Ministry of Public Security issued new procedures effecting Palestinian lawyers' visits to child detainees. Consequently, Palestinian lawyers from the West Bank and Gaza Strip have been essentially prevented from visiting their clients in Israeli prisons since 5 July 2001.

The new procedures amount to a flagrant violation of legal rights and include the following:

- Meetings between the lawyers and the detainees should be attended by a police officer who speaks Arabic and records the details of the visit. Such procedures contradict a basic rights of the detainee, that is attorney-client confidentiality, and they contradict Israeli law.
- Lawyers must have permission from the Israeli military to leave the West Bank and Gaza Strip. According to the requirements

of the Israeli prison administration this permission must clearly state that they have been given permission because they are a lawyer. However, when the DCI/PS lawyer requested such a permit he was told that this reason is not one of the categories given by the District Coordinating Office when issuing permits (only businessman, VIP or humanitarian reasons are stated on the permits).

- Only visits to Palestinian detainees who have not been sentenced are permitted. This means that approximately 40% of Palestinian children (those who have been sentenced) are completely forbidden from lawyer visits.
- The lawyer must prove that he/she is representing the child in court. In order to prove this, the child must sign a form, however, the Prison Administration will not allow a lawyer to meet face-to-face with their client. Instead, the lawyer must fax a form to the prison where the guards will ask a prisoner to sign it. In at least one case, the prison guards have deceived the detainee into signing a confession along with the form. The form is normally written in Hebrew, a language the child does not understand.
- The lawyer must send his ID card, proof of power of attorney and a permission to enter Israel as a lawyer to the prison 48 hours before the visit. This means that it is impossible to visit the prison quickly in cases of emergency.
- Palestinian children from Jerusalem are forbidden from utilizing the services of Palestinian lawyers from the West Bank or Gaza Strip. In many cases, children from the



West Bank who are arrested in Jerusalem are tried in Jerusalem courts and thus refused the services of a West Bank lawyer.

■ These conditions do not apply to Israeli lawyers, who only need to show their lawyer ID at the gate of the prison in order to visit.

All of these conditions place serious barriers in front of Palestinian lawyers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Given the almost total ban on family visits in place since the beginning of the Intifada in September 2000, lawyers are often the only link a Palestinian child prisoner has with the outside world. In the case of repeated attacks on detainees by prison guards it is imperative that a lawyer has unimpeded

and immediate access to the prisons. Any sanctity of the lawyer-client relationship is broken without this type of access.

This situation constitutes a serious violation of international law and places Palestinian children at the mercy of a dangerous and in some cases life-threatening prison system. This system allows prison guards and the administration to act towards child detainees without any form of outside monitoring or observation.

In response to the new Israeli procedures dealing with lawyers' visits, DCI/PS worked Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI), Public Committee Against Torture in Israel

(PCATI), Hamoked and other Palestinian organizations to present a petition to the Supreme Court to cancel the new instructions. The court held several meetings to discuss the request, but as of the end of 2001 no decision has yet been made.

**NOTE:** On 19 February 2002, the court replied that visits were permitted provided they complied with the procedures outlined by the Prison Administration, as outlined above. In response to the court decision on 19 February 2002, a meeting of lawyers and concerned NGOs decided to place another petition before the Israeli High Court.)

### Right to Education:

The UN Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty, point 38 state that "Every juvenile of compulsory school age has the right to education suited to his or her needs and abilities and designed to prepare him or her for return to society. Such education should be provided outside the detention facility in community schools wherever possible and, in any case, by qualified teachers through programmes integrated with the education system of the country so that, after release, juveniles may continue their education without difficulty. Special attention should be given by the administration of the detention facilities to the education of juveniles of foreign origin or with particular cultural or ethnic needs..." "The Beijing Rules, point 26.2 state that "Juveniles in institutions shall receive care, protection and all necessary assistance - social, educational, vocational, psychological, medical and physical - that they

may require because of their age, sex, and personality and in the interest of their wholesome development."

In November 1997, as a result of the efforts of DCI/PS, DCI/Israel, and Advocate Tamar Pelleg, the Central Court in Tel Aviv ruled that detained Palestinian children have the right to education and that the education of Palestinian children will be implemented according to the Palestinian curricula. This decision has never been fully implemented.

In Hasharon (in Telmond compound) prison, Palestinian male child prisoners are detained in two sections, each of which receives instruction for 2-3 hours day, 3 times per week. However, in contrast to the 1997 court decision, they receive instruction in only 3 subjects (Hebrew, Arabic, and Math), though the Palestinian curriculum contains 8 subjects. In addition, students are not allowed to keep



school books or related material with them and the assigned teachers are not qualified to teach the Palestinian syllabus. Consequently, the education received by the detainees does not compensate children for the education they lost due to the detention and does not prepare them to resume their studies upon release.

In Ofek (in Telmond compound, where Palestinian children are detained with Israeli juvenile criminal prisoners), they sit in on classes according to the Israeli curriculum, in Hebrew, a language they do not understand. The administration pays no attention to the

special educational needs of Palestinian children who do not understand Hebrew. Effectively, these children receive no education while detained.

Female detainees in Ramle prison do not receive any formal education. In addition, the administration refuses to allow the lawyers to bring in school books to the detainees. The administration argues that families are allowed to bring educational supplies to the detainees, but, as mentioned, families have not been allowed to visit the detainees for over a year.

No formal education is provided to Palestinian child political prisoners in Megiddo military prison, as they are treated as adult prisoners. They are only allowed to sit for the general secondary matriculation exams (tawjihi).

Children held in detention centers in the occupied territories also receive no educational instruction. Thus, not only do children suffer from being imprisoned, their prospects for a bright future are further impaired due to their inability to pursue their education.

### Detention with Israeli Juvenile Criminal Prisoners:

Placing Israeli juvenile criminal prisoners and Palestinian child political prisoners together was reintroduced by the Israeli Prison Authorities in the latter part of the year 2000 and is contrary to the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Standard Minimum Rules) adopted by UN Economic and Social Council resolution 663C (XXIV), on July 31, 1957. This resolution provides authoritative guidance in interpreting principles laid out in documents such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The Standard Minimum Rules apply to all persons in detention, for whatever reason. Among other things, the rules note:

- different categories of prisoners shall be kept in separate institutions (or parts of institutions), taking account of their sex, age, criminal record, the legal reason for their detention and the necessities of their treatment;

- people detained for civil or administrative

reasons should be kept separately from people imprisoned for a criminal offense

In spite of these guidelines, the Israeli authorities continue to detain Palestinian child political prisoners with Israeli juvenile criminal prisoners. DCI/PS has documented numerous cases of Palestinian child political prisoners being attacked by juvenile criminal prisoners, including being beaten, having scalding water thrown at them, being attacked with razor blades, and sexually harassed.

In November 2001, DCI/PS sent an urgent letter to the Legal Advisor of the Israeli Prison Authority in regards to the situation of Palestinian two male child political prisoners who were incarcerated with Israeli criminal prisoners and were subject to beatings and attacks from these prisoners, including one of whom was attacked and cut with a razor. The Prison Authority refused to look into the matter. The continued placement of Palestinian child political

prisoners with Israeli criminal prisoners is life threatening.

This practice effects two of the prisons in which Palestinian child political prisoners are detained, as follows:

#### *Ofek Prison*

Ofek prison consists of four sections. Throughout the year 2001, an average of between 15- 25 Palestinian children were regularly detained in Ofek and distributed among several rooms. During the year 2001, DCI/PS received several cases of detainees in Ofek who were attacked by criminal juvenile detainees. Sometimes the Palestinian children were beaten using knives or other implements and scalding water was poured on them. In addition, the clothes and private belongings of Palestinian children detained were stolen by criminal juvenile detainees. Despite DCI/PS's intervention, the prison administration did nothing to solve these problems, to punish

the criminals, or to transfer the Palestinian political detainees to other prisons or other sections in the same facility.

### **Ramle Prison**

Throughout the year 2001, there were continually between ten to twelve Palestinian female detainees detained in Ramle, including four girl children. The Palestinian detainees in this prison are in the same sections as the criminal detainees, but in separate rooms. The Palestinian political detainees suffer continual attacks and harassment by the Israeli criminal detainees.

Cases Brought Before the Parole Committee: In 1996, DCI/PS managed to succeed in bringing cases of detained Palestinian children

in front of the Parole (Shlish) Committee, which reviews the children's sentences after they serve 2/3 of their sentence. This procedure had been previously denied to Palestinian children from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, while Israeli criminal juveniles and detained Palestinian children with Jerusalem IDs were allowed to stand before this committee.

In 2001, DCI/PS followed-up 29 cases before the Parole Committee. The Legal Program's experience in the past year indicated a concrete shift in the Parole Committee's approach to Palestinian child political prisoners. In Telmond compound, most of the children who were presented to this committee in the year 2000 were released. But in the year 2001, there was blatant discrimination on part of the Israeli

authorities when it came to Palestinian children detainees. The committee repeatedly refused to release Palestinian children detainees.

In Megiddo prison, the Parole Committee also refused to release any detained child, even if only few days remained to complete the original sentence. During the year 2001, DCI/PS represented 29 cases in front of this committee, but only five requests were accepted. In order to raise awareness about this issue, we urged lawyers from the International Commission of Jurists – Swedish Section to attend Committee sessions with the DCI/PS attorney in order to monitor the work of the committee. One jurist, the Past President of Swedish Bar Association, attended a session and witnessed how the Committee discussed the files of twelve children within one hour and refuses to release any of them.







### **Treatment of Palestinian Child Political Prisoners by Prison Administrations:**

Conditions of detention for Palestinian child political prisoners continued to deteriorate in each of the facilities holding children. The situation of Palestinian child prisoners in Telmond prison, as outlined below, is representative of the types of mistreatment to which Palestinian children are regularly subjected.

Since the beginning of the year, detained children in this prison were attacked several times by the prison staff with no apparent reason. In one case, the prison administration, supported by large numbers of police officers armed with sticks and gas masks, invaded the detainees' rooms. The detainees were beaten and their rooms were sprayed with teargas which resulted in the injury of several children. Instead of transferring injured detainees for treatment, they were presented to interior administrative courts. Detainees were punished by being deprived of family visits, especially detainees from Jerusalem whose families do not need permission to visit. Many detainees were placed in solitary confinement. The following detainees were beaten: Nasser Zeid, Abdul Jawwad Hmoud, Abdallah Atta, and Mahmoud Badran. During the visit of DCI/PS's lawyer to the detainee Abdul Jawwad Hmoud, 17 years old, he said: "On 15/11, I was beaten all over my body by the prison guards and was put in a small cell with no water. When the administrator of the prison came, he threatened me that I would be transferred to the isolation department of the Ramla prison».

Another factor affecting conditions of detention is the interference of the prison administration in choosing the representative of the Palestinian child political prisoners. For example, the administration continually refused to acknowledge the detainee Nasser Zeid, 17 years old, as representing the child detainees, though they elected him. Because of this, Nasser received severe mistreatment in prison, beaten several times and repeatedly placed in isolation. The same situation occurred with Abdul Jawwad Hmoud who was elected after Nasser Zeid was transferred to Askelon prison. Again, the administration refused to acknowledge him as representative. Abdul Jawwad was severely punished by being placed in isolation for weeks on end. He was deprived of family visits even though he comes from Jerusalem and thus his family was able to arrive at the prison.

Lack of appropriate supplies and services provided to the prisoners by the administration also impacts conditions of detention. Lawyers and human rights organizations that try to provide much needed supplies are prevented from doing so. For example, given the inadequate supply of basic items such as underclothes, DCI/PS, with the support of UNICEF, purchased the required items and attempted to deliver them to the prison during the Muslim feast marking the end of Ramadan (Eid al-Fitr). However, the Telmond administration refused to allow the delivery of the items to the detainees, claiming that such items can be brought only by families, though families are consistently prohibited from visiting.

Violent Mistreatment and Torture: The prohibition against torture is absolute. No

situation can justify its application and there are no exceptions. This position is enshrined in several UN declarations and covenants, to which Israel is a signatory party, including article 37 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the UN Convention Against Torture.

Though the prohibition on torture is clear, affidavits provided to DCI/PS by child political prisoners indicate that violent mistreatment, often amounting to torture, is a systematic component of the arrest, interrogation, and incarceration of Palestinian children detained by Israel. The overwhelming majority of children with whom the DCI/PS Legal and Social Programs dealt with in 2000 and 2001 attested to having been subjected to one or more forms of mistreatment during their period of arrest and interrogation, such as beatings, having scalding and freezing water poured on them alternatively, tied in painful positions for long periods of time, sexually harassed, and being subject to physical and psychological threats by Israeli interrogators.

DCI/PS experience makes clear that the violent mistreatment of Palestinian children is part and parcel of the arrest process. According to interviews with 50 child ex-detainees aged between 10-17 who were arrested in the years 1999 and 2000, DCI/PS found that:

- 60% of them had been arrested in streets without prompt notification of their families.
- 84% were exposed to aggression while being arrested by soldiers who were sometimes masked and disguised as Arabs.
- 100% were exposed to interrogation and physical and psychological torture in detention centers.

- 96% of detainees were handcuffed.
- 92% of them had their eyes blindfolded and 15% had their heads put in dirty sacks.
- 50% had scars due to torture lasting for the period of their interrogation and imprisonment.
- 20% of them were imprisoned with criminal prisoners.

The following table, based on a sample of 150 cases of children dealt with by the Legal Program in 2001, indicate the types of abuse to which Palestinian children are routinely subjected:

Form of Abuse	NUMBER
Sleep Deprivation	35
Beating	21
21Position Abuse	44
Isolation	49
Blindfolding and Tying of Hands	150 <sup>3</sup>

In 2001, torture, both physical and psychological, was used against children during interrogation and other stages of detention. Methods of violent mistreatment are often applied to children in order to obtain a confession or for punishment. Throughout the process, children's vulnerability is targeted, creating a situation wherein children are isolated, frightened for their lives and believe no one else can intervene to end their misery. It becomes clear that the interrogation period, and consequently the abuse, will not end until the child confesses.

The end results are often illogical confessions. For example, in 2001 DCI/PS dealt with one case wherein a detained child confessed that he and his brother continually threw stones



throughout the year, though his brother was in prison at the time. Another example is when a child confesses to throwing stones two hundred times in the year. Other confessions are filled with minute detail, such as the exact number of times stones were thrown, and the names of other children who participated. The confession is written in Hebrew, a language most Palestinian children do not understand. A rational evaluation of such a confession calls into question its veracity. Yet little attention is paid to the truth of the confession, for its existence serves as the needed justification to send the child to trial in the Israeli Military Court System, a system characterized by discriminatory rules and regulations.

DCI/PS's experience working with Palestinian child political prisoners indicates that terrorizing the child is the first form of mental suffering inflicted. In addition to the physical beatings, violent methods of arrest, blindfolding, verbal threats, and sleep deprivation are methods of coercion clearly violating the international injunction against cruel and degrading treatment.

<sup>3</sup>Please note that Palestinian children are routinely subjected to more than one form of abuse during the arrest, interrogation, and incarceration process. Therefore, the total number resulting from this table exceeds the total number of cases dealt with by the organization in 2001.

In discussing the above forms of abuse to which Palestinian child political detainees are subjected, several issues must be considered:

**a.** That each individual act is but one part of arrest and interrogation process that is designed to cripple and defeat the detainee. Taken individually, particular acts may alone not constitute torture. Considered as-a-whole, however, the combined abuse, which succeeds in physically and psychologically exhausting and terrifying the child, constitutes torture. Prisoners are kept from sleeping for extended periods, deprived of food, not given access to a toilet, nor a change of clothes. Quite rightly, prisoners interpret this treatment as utterly dehumanizing. In this vein, it is necessary to consider the links between physical and psychological mistreatment, wherein the former is applied in order to physically exhaust the child, which subsequently effects the psychological state of the child, thus exacerbating the effects of both types of mistreatment.

**b.** That such abuse takes place within the context of a 34 year long military occupation of approximately three million civilians. An occupation that has been characterized by systematic violence against the child's ethnic, religious, and national group, adding to the fear in place in the child at the time of arrest and exacerbate the effects of the treatment.

**c.** Finally, one must continually consider that the subjects of such abuse are children. Similar methods applied to a 30-year-old adult may not have the same consequences as they would on a child. However, for children, the entire arrest process results not only in physical injury, but in psychological terror.

### ***Comment on the 1999 Israeli High Court Ruling Regarding the Use of Torture Against Detainees***

On 6 September, 1999, the Israeli High Court passed a ruling in response to a petition by that made illegal several interrogation methods used by the General Security Services (GSS), now known as the Israel Security Agency. Four of the methods banned were: violently shaking a suspect, tying them in contorted positions to a small kindergarten chair, covering his/her head with a sack, and sleep deprivation.

This ruling was widely interpreted by the international community to mean that Israel had outlawed the practice of torture. In reality, this was absolutely not the case. It should be noted that the 1999 Israeli High Court ruling referred only to the practices of the General Security Services. DCI/PS experience indicates however, that the majority of torture of children is not carried out by the ISA, but rather by Israeli police, soldiers and military police in detention centers located in Israeli settlements and military camps. Palestinian children are subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment by all three of the above mentioned groups that were NOT included in the September 1999 ruling.

Initial reports suggested that the use of torture declined or stopped in the days immediately after the September 6 High Court ruling. Subsequent reports, however, show that torture is still used with just as much frequency, having become more intense since the Palestinian Uprising (Intifada) began in September 2000. Children detainees have been no exception to this disturbing trend.

Contrary to what many had hoped, visits by DCI/PS attorneys to children in Israeli prisons indicate that nothing has improved since the 1999 ruling; they report that virtually every imprisoned child testifies to some form of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. Moreover, they note that new, more insidious methods are being used more frequently, including more psychologically focused techniques such as the use of isolation, using Palestinian collaborators to extract confessions, or pressuring children to collaborate with the Israeli military.

The September 1999 ruling regarding GSS interrogation practices succeeded in narrowing the terms of discourse, by focusing on the practices of the GSS (now ISA), while ignoring interrogation methods employed by other Israeli state security



bodies, including the police and military intelligence; by directing attention towards the 'ticking bomb' scenario at the same time as ignoring the other widespread scenarios wherein torture is regularly applied to Palestinian political detainees; and by focusing considerable attention on Israeli attempts not only to justify the application of torture, but also to re-define torture as something other than that.

Of particular concern to DCI/PS is the complete absence of any reference to torture against children in either the ruling or in much

of the public discourse regarding torture in Israel. Given that the debate is frequently framed within the terms of 'ticking bomb' scenarios (in which critical information to prevent an attack is perceived to be at stake in the interrogation), the issue of torture in Israel is repeatedly placed within a context of Israel's "security" issue and threats to its existence. However, an examination of the widespread and systematic use of torture against Palestinian child detainees, the majority of whom are arrested on the charge of stone

throwing, makes patently clear the fact that torture in Israel by Israeli state functionaries is a strategic, political, and colonialist tactic that fits within an overall system of Israeli military occupation.

The ease with which torture against children has been largely absent in discussions regarding the Israeli use of torture illustrates the need of a child-specific interpretation of "torture" as well as the need for increased international action into the phenomena of violence against children.

## Other Legal Program Activities in 2001:

The DCI/PS Legal Program participated in several meetings and conferences in 2001, as well as organized a variety of other activities, as noted below:

- 1- Participated in the meetings of the Coordinating Committee of the Palestinian Child Rights Coalition that were held at the office of the National Plan of Action for Palestinian Children. The committee includes several NGOs and other governmental organizations interested in working with children.
- 2- Arranged and participated in several meetings for families of children killed by Israeli forces and settlers. The meetings were held in order to establish a committee to follow up with unique situation of these families.
- 3- Held several meetings with the International Committee of the Red Cross to discuss the situation of detained Palestinian children.
- 4- Conducted several meetings with Amnesty International delegations visiting the area. In these meetings, Israeli violations against children, particularly child political detainees, were discussed.
- 5- Participated in a conference in Jordan about the spread of light weapons in the Arab world and presented a working paper.
- 6- Worked on establishing a pressure group consisting of several Israeli human rights organizations to lobby against Israel's policy of denying lawyers visitation rights.
- 7- Prepared a report detailing the circumstances of detained Palestinian children to present at a conference held in Belgium. When the Israeli occupation forces barred the DCI/PS representative from traveling, the report was faxed and was read at the conference which was attended by several Belgian organizations and people interested in Palestinian human rights.
- 8- Facilitated the visits of three groups of international jurists, from the International Commission of Jurists – Sweden, to monitor military court and parole committee proceedings.

### *The Palestinian Level:*

Repeated Israeli attacks on Palestinian communities, characterized by harsh closures and sieges led to the dysfunction of the Palestinian Authority in many ways, throughout the Palestinian territories. Thus, the role of many Palestinian facilities, particularly the judiciary system were severely impeded. All that reflected negatively on the legal and legislative aspects concerning the rights of the child. The legislation that was applicable during the past periods of occupation still applies. The Palestinian Legislative Council has still not passed any new legislation in regards to children's rights.



## ■ Documentation

### *General Background:*



Violations of Palestinian children's rights stemming from the Israeli occupation continued to increase in the year 2001. These violations occur in spite of the fact that the Israeli government ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1991. Given these gross and systematic violations, in 1996, DCI/PS began documenting violations of Palestinian children's rights that occurred as a direct result of Israeli military and settler presence in the occupied territories and the occupation policies applied to the approximately 3 million Palestinian residents.

The occurrence of systematic violations is of grave concern, and requires constant follow up by local and international agencies monitoring the situation of children's rights, particularly the United Nation's Committee on the Rights of the Child, which monitors the degree to which the CRC is implemented by State Parties. Through the reporting process required in article 44 of the Convention, State Parties must submit regular reports to the Committee regarding implementation. At the same time, non-governmental organizations are encouraged to submit alternative reports, supplementing information provided by the State Party.

DCI/PS documentation since 1996 has played a pivotal role in compiling such information and in objectively reflecting the conditions in which Palestinian children live, at the same time as providing statistical analysis regarding

the violations to which they are subjected. Following the outbreak of the Intifada in September 2000, DCI/PS further developed its work in this regard, expanding its network of volunteer fieldworkers and information sources and enhancing its accurate, objective, and efficient database of child rights violations. Key activities involved in this development, included:

1. Documenting all individual and collective violations against Palestinian children through fieldwork carried out by DCI/PS volunteers and staff. Due to the increase in the number of cases of violations against children, the documentation division recruited a number of volunteers to conduct research studies throughout the Palestinian areas in an attempt to obtain as much data

as possible concerning violations against Palestinian children.

2. Developing a separate file documenting each child killed or severely abused by the Israeli soldiers or settlers;
3. Regularly updating the database to reflect the most current information.

The following highlights the main achievements of the documentation division during the year 2001:



## Israeli Violations of Palestinian Children's Rights:

### 1- The Right to Life

Over the two years 2000 and 2001, DCI/PS field research recorded 203 deaths of children (under 18) killed as a result of the Israeli occupation. Israeli soldiers and settlers killed 105 children in 2000 and 98 2001. In addition, the division documented the killing of a fetus when a pregnant woman was hit by shrapnel in an Israeli military attack on the Gaza Strip in 2001.

Two characteristics of the Israeli violence stand out in a comparison of child deaths and injuries between 2000 and 2001. Israeli forces killed significantly younger children in 2001 than in comparison with the year 2000 and they did so with a much higher level of force.

In terms of injury in the year 2001, DCI/PS collected information on 3,750 child injuries. The Palestinian Red Crescent estimates a total of between 6000-7000 children were injured during the year 2001.<sup>4</sup> Of the 3,750 injuries documented by DCI/PS, more than 1/5 were to the upper part of the body (head, chest, eye, neck and back).

#### Children Killed

Of the 98 children killed in 2001, Israeli soldiers shot 95 children dead while Israeli settlers killed three children. The following tables provide further information regarding children killed in 2001:

CIRCUMSTANCE OF DEATH	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Clashes	42	42.86
Shelling/ Missile Attack	17	17.35
During assassination attempt	12	12.24
Attack	18	18.37
Closure	2	2.04
Mine/Explosive	7	7.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>100%</b>

Age Group	1999		2001	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
0-8	7	6.66	12	12.24
9-12	12	11.43	21	21.43%
13-15	36	34.29	31	31.63%
16-17	50	47.62	34	34.69%
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>4</sup> See <http://www.palestinercs.org>, the website of the Palestinian Red Crescent for more information.

Location of Fatal Injury	1999		2001	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Head	44	43.14	31	32.29
Chest	32	31.37	20	20.8
Back	2	1.96	44	4.17
Stomach	2	11.96	9	9.38
More than one location	22	21.57	32	33.33
<b>Total<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>102</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100%</b>



DCI/PS documentation in 2001 highlights the following points to be stressed:

1. Fifty-six (56) of the 98 children killed were not participating in a demonstration or any form of confrontation at the time of their death. This represents 57% of those children killed by Israeli soldiers or settlers.
2. Of those 42 children killed during clashes, only 26 of them were actually participating in clashes at the time according to DCI/PS documentation. The remaining 16 were passing nearby.
3. Of the total 98 children killed, 39 were killed inside their houses, on the way to school, or in school.
4. 12 or 12.24% of children killed died as a result of the Israeli assassination policy against Palestinians the Israeli military claims are politically active. An example is the two brothers Bilal and Ashraf Abu Khader from Nablus.
5. The Israeli policy of directly aiming and shooting. There are 56 cases of killings in which children were shot in their upper body parts. Twenty-eight of them were shot directly in the head.
6. The percentage of Palestinian children killed under the age of thirteen doubled from the year 2000 to the year 2001. More than 1/3 of children killed in the year 2001 were under the age of 12.
7. The level of force used in killing these children increased. In the year 2001, 32% of children were killed by injuries to the head, an 11% drop in comparison with the year 2000. This apparent drop however, was compensated by the large increase in the number of children who received multiple deadly wounds to more than one bodily location (33.33% of child deaths).

<sup>5</sup> It should be noted that in both 2000 and 2001 two children died due to closure. They are not included in this table.

## Children Injured

DCI/PS documented 3,750 cases of children injured by the Israeli army and settlers, while the Red Crescent Society estimates the total number of injured children ranged between 6000 and 7000 children during the year 2001. The sheer volume of child injury, along with strict military closures and sieges of Palestinian towns and villages prevent field



researchers from reaching all injured children.

Of the injured children, 780 were hit in the upper parts of their bodies, 121 of whom were directly shot in one of the eyes resulting in 9 children losing one of their eyes. 35.84% of children were hit either in their upper body part or lower one.

1,490 or 39.7% of the documented cases were of injured children under twelve years of age and 24.16% were shot with live ammunition.



## Impact of Closure on Right to Life

DCI/PS documentation recorded nine cases of babies delivered at Israeli military checkpoints that isolate Palestinian towns and villages. In these cases, Israel soldiers deliberately delayed passage of pregnant woman trying to reach hospitals. The results are as follows:

- Three babies died before they were transported to a medical facility;
- Three babies were in critical condition when they reached medical facilities;
- Three babies suffered from minor health problems.



## 2- The Right to Education

One of the gravest violations to which Palestinian children are subjected are violations to the right to education. The right to education is enshrined in international human rights and humanitarian law, particularly the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which entered into force in Israel on 2 November 1991. The CRC outlines the basic right of children to receive an unobstructed education that encourages their development and learning. Article 28 of the CRC outlines the recognition, by States Parties, of the child's right to education, and the goal of compulsory, free, basic education. It also requires States Parties "to take measures to encourage regular attendance at schools and the reduction of drop-out rates."

The Israeli occupation obstructs the education of Palestinian children in a variety of ways: by directly attacking schools; closing schools by military order; through restrictions on freedom of movement which prevent students and teachers from arriving to schools; and through the imposition of curfews which prohibit residents from leaving their homes for any reason, thereby resulting in accumulated lost school days.

In 2001, DCI/PS documented 214 incidents violating Palestinian children's right to education, as follows:

**1. Attacks on schools:** DCI/PS documented 98 cases of schools fired at by Israeli soldiers using live ammunition, rubber-coated steel bullets or tear gas. In some cases, school students were present during these attacks. A number of schools were



attacked more than once such as Qurtuba School and Alya'qobieh School in the old city of Hebron.

## **2. Transforming schools into military bases:**

The Israeli army took over five schools and turned them into military bases, after the students and faculty were forcefully evacuated. Three schools in the old city of Hebron were evacuated and occupied after September 2000, Alma'aref Elementary Boys School, Jawhar Elementary Girls School, and Usama Bin Munqeth Elementary Girls School. These schools served 1,920 students who were deprived of their right to education for an extended period. The students were eventually re-assigned to different area schools.

## **3. Closure of schools by military order:**

Eight schools were closed by military order, preventing students from attending school for varied periods of time.

## **4. Curfews:** DCI/PS documented 32 cases of school closures in different towns and villages as a result of Israeli imposed curfews, preventing residents from leaving their homes. Consequently, the educational process in these areas was repeatedly interrupted for varied periods of time.

## **5. Missile Attacks/Tank Shelling:** 71

Palestinian schools came under Israeli attack either through tank shelling or rockets fired from helicopters. In some cases, school students were present during these attacks. Some schools were partially destroyed. Remains of rocket missiles were located in some schools endangering the lives of students. Other schools were bombarded during school hours such as Shahidayn Al Ibrahmiyyeh School in Jenin, and the National School for the Blind in Al Bireh.

The most devastating attack followed-up by DCI/PS in 2001 occurred at the Shahidayn Al Ibrahmiyyeh Basic Girls School in Jenin. On 18 October 2001, 10-year old Riham Nabeel Ward was killed by live ammunition to the chest while attending school in the German Area, Jenin. According to DCI/PS fieldwork, Riham and other students arrived for class in the morning and found Israeli tanks and soldiers positioned near the school following an Israeli incursion into the area the previous night. Israeli soldiers opened fire while the students were attempting to take cover on the floor of one of the classrooms. Riham died in her older sister's arms while five other students and three teachers were also injured.

## **3- The Right to Adequate Housing**

In 2001, DCI/PS documented the demolition/destruction of 478 houses, leaving homeless 1,812 Palestinian children. This is a considerable increase of the 120 cases documented in 2000. In addition, thousands of dwellings were damaged as a result of Israeli attacks on Palestinian residential areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, depriving thousands of Palestinian children of their right to adequate housing.

## **Children Killed in Areas Under the Jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority:**

DCI/PS recorded ten incidents of children killed as a result of Palestinian gunfire. Seven children were shot by Palestinian security forces during an exchange of fire between Palestinians during an attempted arrest of a Palestinian political leader; one was killed by masked men who opened fire on a group of


people; one was killed as a result of weapons misuse during a funeral procession; and one was killed as a result of weapons misuse during a march. In all cases, live ammunition was used.

## **Networking and Coordination with Local Organizations:**

In 2001, DCI/PS documentation staff cooperated and coordinated with a number of governmental and non-governmental organizations for the purpose of obtaining accurate information from a variety of resources. Coordination took place with the Palestinian Ministries of Health, Local Affairs, and Education, in addition to the Union of Social Workers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the Land Research Center in Jerusalem. In addition, DCI/PS documentation staff provided information to tens of local organizations and institutions as DCI/PS documentation continues to be utilized as a source of reliable information regarding violations against Palestinian children's rights.



## 2. Educational Program

 The DCI/PS Educational Program focused on two main projects during 2001: Developing the Palestinian Girl-Child Project in Hebron, and the Landmine Awareness Project. The Educational Program epitomizes DCI/PS's approach in working with children, which focuses on empowering children and raising their awareness at all levels- through child-to-child methodology- to facilitate their effective participation in defending their rights and their active role in Palestinian society and to treat children not as passive recipients of adult knowledge, but as key actors in their society.

### *Developing the Palestinian Girl-Child*

#### **General Objectives:**

- a. To protect the rights of the Palestinian girl child and to promote the development of Palestinian girl children, through increasing community and family awareness of the rights of girl children and developing an environment supportive of these rights.
- b. To develop the abilities and talents of girl children, to build their self-esteem, and encourage them to express their needs and experiences.
- c. To encourage legislation protecting children's rights, their development and their participation in social life, including matters affecting their communities and families.

In 2001, the Girl Child project was implemented in Hebron with the participation of five schools: Qurtoba, Al-Ya'qubia, Al-Yaqatha, Abd al- Khaleq Yaghmour and Al-Fawar Refugee Camp School for girls. The total beneficiaries of the project were 4,600, including 35 teachers, 300 mothers, and thousands of children and their families.

#### **Activities**

##### ● **Training Courses**

- **Training Course for Teachers and Employees:** 15 participants, including 10 teachers, participating from 12 schools in the Hebron governorate, and five employees from al-Amal TV station in Hebron. The course's duration was 18 hours and addressed the CRC (Convention on the Rights of the Child).



- **Training Course for Girls on the CRC:** Palestinian girl children who had previously received training from the project took the initiative to train 15 new girls, utilizing the child-to-child approach. The course targeted girls aged 10-13 years, who were divided into three groups, each group consisting of five girls. The duration of the course was 12 continuous days with an average of three hours per day. The course discussed the principles of the CRC.

##### ● **Workshops**

- **Awareness Meetings:** DCI/PS organized seven awareness meetings targeting mothers from the Old City of Hebron and Al-Fawwar refugee camp, with 20 mothers participating in each meeting. These meetings discussed topics related to psychological and reproductive health, as well as topics related to the legal rights of the child and women's rights. Moreover, DCI/PS organized two workshops to introduce child-to-child methodology.



- **Painting Workshops:** DCI\PS, held eight painting workshops via local summer camps. These workshops targeted children between 8-14 years old. Approximately 30 children participated in each workshop.



### ● Lectures

Sixteen lectures, each with between 20-25 participants, were given covering the following topics:

- Five lectures on the psychological issues concerning children.
- Three lectures on child legislation in the world and in Palestine.

- Three lectures on early marriage.
- Four lectures on psychological guidance.
- One lecture on child labor.

Invited guests included decision makers, ministers, members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, physicians, religious leaders and social experts.

### ● Focus groups

The project conducted monthly focus group meetings in order to plan project activities and discuss ongoing work and future plans. Participating girl children conducted research on settlements in Hebron and took part in a program at Hebron Radio, in which they spoke about children and their rights as well as the challenges and violations they face in their daily life and everyday lives in general.

DCI\PS also worked with the Directorate of Education and area schools to organize a festival on the Day of the Palestinian Child (5 April), in which the focus groups in the schools helped organize the activities of the festival in a creative way. The festival was held at Yaqoubiyya school.

### ● School visits

From the beginning of the academic year, the project carried out regular visits (biweekly) to the five participating schools to examine the conditions of the students and staff resulting from the ongoing Israeli siege on Palestinian

communities. The schools were affected to different degrees. For example, Qurtoba school, Yacoubiyya school and Al Yaqatha school were more affected than Abd al-Khaleq Yaghmour school because they are situated relatively close away to confrontation areas. In addition, a number of visits were made to the schools in order to organize groups to discuss the general situation and to plan activities to assist the girls in coping with the crisis on the ground.



### ● Children's Festival

In preparation for the festival, participating girls assisted effectively in planning festival activities and organizing the program and speeches.

Around 400 children from the four project schools in Hebron City attended the festival. Invited guests include the Director of Education as well as the teachers of the schools. The



Director and participating girls delivered speeches and girl children presented artistic shows such as marching and dancing. Many students sang and danced to traditional folklore songs. Finally, the theater group, "Heart to Heart" performed a sketch.

At the end of the festival, DCI/PS honored a number of headmistresses and teachers. Participating children responded enthusiastically to the activities of the festival and the director and audience extended their support and encouragement for the activities.

### ● Haqi Ana! (My Right!)

The "Haqi Ana" TV program began in the year 2000, in coordination with al-Amal TV in Hebron. Children were trained and were responsible for part of the preparation of the program, and one chosen as host. The program was broadcast weekly and focused



on children's issues, particularly on issues related to the Intifada, including how to best deal with children during the crisis. Also, tips were included for mothers and children on how to best respond to the situation. CRC

awareness messages were highlighted repeatedly, and numerous local experts were hosted on the show. During the call-in portion of the program, numerous children and families phoned in, requesting the assistance of the experts featured on the show. In 2001, production and broadcast of this program included on a monthly basis.

### ● Workshop on Child-to-Child Methodology

Organized by the Arab Resource Collective in Cyprus in February 2001, this workshop examined the participants' experiences and work mechanisms regarding planning, execution and evaluation. The Project Coordinator attended the workshop, which was held with the participation of children and field workers from different Arab countries.





## ● Staff Training

The Girl-child project coordinator participated in a workshop on “Early Marriage,” which was organized by the Arab Resource Collective in Cyprus in April 2001, and included the participation of numerous organizations that deal with the problems of early marriage. The experience of these organizations was evaluated during the workshop. In addition, many cassettes, documentary films and working papers were presented. The DCI/PS Girl Child project presented a recorded performance detailing the girls’ point of view on early marriage and its negative effects.

### *Related Activities:*

■ DCI/PS assisted in the production of an educational, rights based booklet for children, published by the Palestine Red Crescent Society in Hebron. DCI/PS’s acted in an advisory capacity, providing feedback on the content and revising drafts of the booklet. Children’s input on the

booklet was garnered through a workshop with children, organized by DCI/PS. After production of the booklet, DCI/PS used the publication in various activities and workshops.

- The project carried out several visits to 14 year old Abeer Karamah, a student at Yaqoubiyya school who was wounded in her abdomen and hand during an attack on the Old City of Hebron. DCI/PS recorded a detailed interview with her and included her case in the DCI/PS publication *A Generation Denied*.
- Project staff accompanied a group of international reporters in their visits to Hebron and Bethlehem to examine the damage in the areas attacked and bombarded by Israel. Interviews were also recorded with the families of two children from Arroub refugee camp who had been killed by Israeli soldiers and the families of released child prisoners.
- The project participated in the open days of schools in Hebron in response to the

invitation of the Director of Activities at the Directorate of Education. DCI/PS organized lectures and workshops to discuss the Convention on the Rights of the Child and to let the children express their opinion about the issues affecting them. The children expressed themselves through discussion groups and drawing activities concentrating on the current situation, the cause of their fear, anxiety and distraction.

- Discussions were held regularly as a follow up to the CRC training courses. These discussions deliberated on issues related to the CRC and the violations of the rights of the child. As a result of these discussions, the girls who participated in the training took the initiative to conduct research on related issues and disseminate the findings in the school wall magazine, via the schools’ public announcement system, and through DCI/PS publications (*The Little Hands*).

## *Landmine Awareness Project*

### *General Objectives*

- a. Reducing the number of casualties by awareness raising among people at risk.
- b. Increasing local and international awareness regarding the problem of landmines and UXO in the OPT and preventive measures.
- c. Lobbying with Palestinian, international and other interested organizations to raise the issue of landmines and survivors on the political agenda of Israel and the Palestinian National Authority, in order to identify responsibilities related to landmine and UXO clearance, as well as to pressure Israel to take immediate actions aimed at minimizing landmine explosions, such as fencing minefields and placing clear warning signs.
- d. To increase and improve the quality of support to victims of landmines and UXO.
- e. To increase and improve the quality and quantity of information related to the landmine/UXO problem in the OPT. To enhance the capacity and strengthen the role of existing project volunteers including landmines/UXO survivors, and to mobilize and train new volunteers to raise awareness in the community.



The Landmine Awareness Project incorporates a range of actions aimed at raising community awareness about the problem of landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO). It incorporates child-to-child methodology and seeks to prevent the additional deaths and injuries of innocent people, especially children.

Since the beginning of the Intifada, the scope of the problem of landmines and UXO increased, spanning beyond the areas of minefields and military training zones, reaching to the areas of confrontation between the Palestinians and Israeli soldiers, where the military repeatedly left many UXO behind. Israel also deployed mines at blockades which separate the Palestinian Governorates and have planted anti-personnel landmines in some inhabited buildings, claiming that armed Palestinians shoot from these buildings.

Since September 2000, considerable success has been achieved with the Landmine Awareness project: the role of the project in high-risk areas was strengthened, and the level

of awareness among the community in general was increased with regard to the problem of landmines and UXO in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Because it is difficult to reach high-risk areas under conditions of closure, we maintained our relations with the volunteers and teachers whom we trained in the past, and they continued to convey awareness messages and conduct activities in high risk areas. During 2001 many mine awareness activities were conducted in grade-schools and summer camps. Among these activities were: lectures, drawings, bulletin boards, morning announcements, in addition to the integration of mine awareness education in the curriculum.

The project also used the mass media to convey awareness messages, utilizing the newspapers, radio, and television stations. DCI/PS participated in programs aired on radio and television discussing the problem of mines and UXO in Palestine. In addition, the issue of landmines and UXO was raised on a mass scale through the Project's

distribution of the colored, educational booklets for children between the ages of 12 and 15, as well as the distribution of two types of mine awareness stickers and colored school agendas.

Also, the Project submitted the Palestine Report for the Landmine Monitor Report 2001. This report discusses the Palestinian and Israeli positions regarding the Mine Ban Treaty, Humanitarian Mine Action, and Victim Survivor Assistance. It is worth noting that the report discusses at length the situation of mine fields and military training zones within the areas under Israeli control. The report also demonstrates how, contrary to Israeli claims made in international circles, the minefields in the Occupied Palestinian Territories have no value from a military point of view, as was highlighted in a 1999 audit by the Israeli State Comptroller. The report also discusses a new trend in Israeli practices, which is the use of landmines during the Al-Aqsa Intifada.

# **& Activities Achievements**



**1. Educational Materials:** During this period a collection of educational materials were distributed, including:

- Distributed an illustrated children's educational booklet to warning of the dangers of landmines and UXO. The booklet includes advice and guidance. During this period around 2,500 copies were distributed in high-risk areas. For ages 12 – 15.
- Distributed a children's educational coloring booklet to explain to children the dangers of landmines and UXO. During this period around 2,000 copies were distributed in high-risk areas. For ages 6 – 9.
- Distributed a children's school agenda containing information about mine awareness, and the role of the community in integrating the handicapped. During this period around 3000 copies were distributed in high-risk areas.
- Two kinds of stickers warning of the dangers of landmines and UXO. During this period around 5000 stickers were distributed in high-risk areas.

**2. Media coverage:** The project presented the issue of landmines and UXO in local and international media. Moreover, local newspapers and television stations reported on the activities of the Palestinian campaign to raise community awareness of landmines and UXOs.

Short reports and press releases on specific issues related to the problem of landmines were produced, in both Arabic and English, as a response to Israel's new use of landmines explosive devices. These reports were widely circulated via e-mail, newspapers, and radio and television stations.

The following table illustrates the media coverage:

ACTIVITY	NUMBER OF TIMES
Radio interviews	12 times
Television interviews	5 times
Reports in the newspapers	3 times
Newspaper Articles by Others	Many times
DCI/PS press releases in Arabic	2 press releases
DCI/PS Press releases in English	2 press releases
Mine Awareness messages	Many times through Al-Markazy, Farah, Al-Amal, and Al-Majd Television stations in Jenin and Hebron.

**3. Cooperation and Coordination with the Educational Directorate Offices:** As a result of the Israeli imposed closure impeding movement between Palestinian areas, it was difficult for project personnel to personally supervise the performance of teachers in conveying mine awareness messages. Therefore, the Educational Directorate Offices fulfilled this function, and reported to us about progress in the schools. During this period many mine awareness activities were conducted, including: lectures, drawings, bulletin boards, morning announcements, in addition to the integration of mine awareness education in the curriculum.

**4. Documentation:** In coordination with the DCI/PS Documentation Officer, the project documents all landmine and UXO explosions in the Palestinian Territories in 2001. In 2001, DCI/PS documented 10 explosions of landmines and UXO, resulting in the deaths of seven children and the injury of 13 persons. A total of six of the deaths occurred as a result of an explosive device (possible booby trap), which the seventh death was the result of and exploded UXO, found in a child's neighborhood after it had been shelled by the

Israeli army. This constitutes an increase in the both the number of children killed as well as the total number of casualties documented in the previous year. In 2000, four Palestinian children killed and two injured as a result of landmine/UXO explosions.

**5. Awareness Activities:** Increasing the general level of awareness among the community as a whole in high-risk areas regarding the dangers of landmines through conducting mine awareness lectures and workshops in high-risk areas and distributing mine awareness materials.

**6. Meetings:** Attended the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, Third General Meeting, and the Landmine Monitor Report Researchers Meeting (Middle East and North Africa Group), Washington, DC, 6-7 March 2001.

**7. Landmine Monitor Report 2001:** The project updated the Palestine Report on landmines and UXO in the Palestinian Territories for the Landmine Monitor Report 2001, a publication of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. This is the third report that DCI/PS has presented to the Campaign.

(Please see annex following this section for details on project activities and number of beneficiaries).



## Networking and Coordination

In 2001, the project strengthened working relationships with a number of governmental and non-governmental organizations, both locally and internationally. All of these organizations have assisted in the implementation of the project's activities. In addition to delegating some of the responsibilities to our partners, as a result of the situation, this practice also contributed to strengthening our relations with these organizations. Such coordination was primarily with members of the Mine Action Committee, a Committee set up following the initiation of the project in 1999. Members are the Palestine Red Crescent Society, Ministry of Education, Palestinian National Security Forces and DCI/PS.

# ANNEX

## Project Activities for the period 1 January 2001 – 31 December 2001

DATE	ACTIVITY	BENEFICIARIES	DURATION	LOCATION
1.1.01-15.6.01	Updating Palestine report for the Landmine Monitor Report 2001	N/a	N/a	N/a
8.3.01-9.3.01	Present draft of report and participate in meeting of Landmine Monitor Report researchers	N/a	2 days	Washington USA
18.1.01	Lecture	28 people representing farmers and Teachers, and 10 adults from Tiaseer village.	1.5 hours	Tiaseer
29.1.01	Lecture	32 adults	1 + hour	Al- samou
14.2.01	Lecture	20 adults	1 hour	Tobas
3.3.01	Lecture	23 adults and children	1.5 hour	Jenin
26.3.01	Lecture	23 adults	1 hour	Sorif
14.4.01	Lecture	15 adults	2 hours	AL-Aqrabaniah
01.01.01-31.12.01	Educational Awareness Activities. About 150 activities (producing children's mine awareness songs, drawings, wall magazine, bulletin boards, morning announcements, & distributing mine awareness materials etc.).	Over 10,000 children from high-risk schools in Jenin, Toubas areas and Hebron.	Varying lengths	<b>Schools and summer camps in:</b> Qabatia Muthalith al-Shuhadda, Al-Yamoon, Silat Aldthaher, Jenin, Toubas, Ya'bad, Arraba, Al-Rama, Jilboun, Tamoon, Taiseer, Al-Joudeida, Nezd al-Zeid, Um Rihan, Al-Zababdeh, Yatta, Al-Dahreia, Al-Samoa, Sorif. <b>Summer camps in:</b> Tubas, Jenin, Qalkelia, Hebron
During the reporting period	Coverage in the local media and broadcasting mine awareness messages.			

# 3

## 3. Social Program



DCI/PS  
Annual Report 2001

### *Main Activities in 2001*

The main focus of the Social Program in 2001 was on children's psychological health. Since the beginning of the Intifada in 2000, Palestinian children have been living in extremely harsh conditions, suffering gross and systematic rights violations on a daily basis as a result of the Israeli occupation.

Children's psychological health was concentrated on through various activities designed to raise awareness of all sectors of the local community on how to deal with children in times of crisis. At the same time, personnel from community based organizations were trained on different means of dealing with children in times of crisis and on social and psychological counseling of children victims of violence. Activities implemented by the Social Program were developed to correspond with the needs of the children and families from local communities.

The DCI/PS Social Program has distinguished itself as a result of ample experience in working with children victims of violence year after year. The Program's work in this regard dates back to 1994 and DCI/PS's interventions following the Ibrahimi Mosque Massacre in Hebron. Since then, Program staff have positively invested their experience in the local community and transferred their skills to various organizations and individuals, building local capacity in Hebron and other areas of the West Bank.



## 1. Geographic Location and Target Groups

### Geographic Location

Hebron Governorate (villages, refugee camps and cities). Special emphasis placed on remote and/or marginalized areas as well as areas of direct confrontation (including the Old City of Hebron, Abu Sneineh Neighborhood, Arroub Refugee Camp, Dura, and Yatta, among others).

### Target Groups and Beneficiaries

- School children in target (above-mentioned) areas.
- Children exposed to psychological abuse as a result of Israeli military and settler action.
- Palestinian families living in dangerous marginalized areas.
- Staff/Volunteers of child focused organizations (teachers, specialists, women's groups, and volunteers).
- Palestinian mothers in marginalized areas.



## 2. Activities and Achievements:

### a Individual Counseling and Support

During 2001, individual counseling and support sessions were held with children victims of political violence, as indicated by the following tables:

#### Distribution of Child Beneficiaries by Gender

CATEGORY	FEMALES	MALES	TOTAL
Released Child Prisoners	2	15	17
Families of Child Prisoners	15	30	45 <sup>6</sup>
Injured Children	3	2	5
Families and children whose homes were attacked	25	20	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>112</b>

#### Distribution of Child Beneficiaries by Place of Residence

CATEGORY	CITY	REFUGEE CAMP	VILLAGE	TOTAL
Released Child Prisoners	6	8	3	17
Families of Child Prisoners	12	16	17	45
Injured Children	5	-	-	5
Families and children whose homes were attacked	45	-	-	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>112</b>

#### Forms of Abuse Suffered by Palestinian Child Political Prisoners

Palestinian child political prisoners are almost uniformly subjected to cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment and abuse throughout their detention. Forms of abuse, along with the number of children exposed to such abuse and worked with by the Social Program, are included below. These practices are carried out by Israeli soldiers, police and interrogators.

FORMS OF ABUSE	DETAILS	NUMBER OF CHILDREN
Beatings	From the moment of arrest until entering prison, children are subjected to beating all over the body, in particular the head and genitals.	12

<sup>6</sup>The number represents the total number of people worked with coming from 15 families.

Position Abuse (shabeh)	Tying of the hands and legs or both; placing the child on a chair or against a wall and forcing him/her to stand on toes for extended periods of time. In cases wherein detainees did not confess, they are tied up to chairs or even to beds.	7
Humiliating and Degrading Treatment	Demanding that the child curse God or his relatives; spitting on child prisoners.	17
Forced Labor	Children are forced to work during detention. For example, in Al-Majnouneh detention center, 10 children were forced, under threat by soldiers, to clean, clear garbage, paint walls, etc..	10
Isolation	Children are placed in small prison cells that are filthy, smelly and damp. Sunlight rarely reaches them.	5
Detention with Criminal Prisoners	In Ofek, children were held with criminal prisoners who frequently harassed and physically abused them. On one occasion, knives and razor blades were used against a child prisoner serving a four month detention sentence.	3
Beating and Cruel Treatment During Transportation to Court	While detainees are being transported to courts, soldiers take turns beating them up and abusing them, while the child's hands and feet are tied.	10
Prohibition on Family Visits	Since October 2000, Palestinian political prisoners from the West Bank have been repeatedly denied family visits. Consequently, most children serve their entire visit without receiving any visit from a family member.	17

### Working with Child Victims of Political Violence

In 2001, individual counseling and support sessions were offered to 15 child victims of Israeli military and settler violence in the Old City of Hebron, and their families, for a total of 45 individuals. In particular, the Program worked with children living in the Hebron neighborhoods of Abu Sneieneh, Alsheikh, Tel Alrumeida, Jabal At-taweel, and Wadi Alhirrieh who were traumatized and developed psychological disorders as a result of repeated Israeli military attacks on their neighborhoods.

Visits to homes and neighborhood locations that were shelled were visited in order to assess the status of children's psychological health and to provide information to families regarding how to deal with possible symptoms their children may exhibit. In addition, relevant publications and resource material was distributed.

In the course of working with families, beneficiaries conveyed feelings of sadness and depression that altered their daily life and functioning. The most frequently observed symptoms among children of all ages were involuntary urination, diminished academic performance, and an increase in aggressive behavior in the home. The latter was the commonly followed-up symptom addressed during individual counseling sessions.



## CASE STUDY

### 11 year old Ahmad

#### *Background of Ahmad's Case*

Ahmad's family consists of 6 people. His father is a 36 year old blacksmith who is imprisoned in Askelon Prison. His mother is originally from Jerusalem and is 32 years old. Ahmad, 11 years, is the oldest child and in the fifth grade. He has three younger siblings: two twin brothers, 5 years old, and a 2 + year old sister. Ahmad's mother suffers severe back and stomach pain and one of his brothers suffers asthma due to gas inhalation.

The family lives in a rented house for which they pay \$300 a year. Their home consists of one damp room, a kitchen and an old bathroom that lacks sanitary conditions. To arrive to the home, the family must use an unsafe flight of stairs that may collapse at any time.

Financially, the family does not have income sufficient to satisfy its needs. They depend primarily on the father's income as well as some assistance provided by the mother's sister who lives in Jerusalem.

In early October 2000, while Ahmad was playing with his friend, Mu'ath, in their neighborhood, Israeli soldiers opened fire indiscriminately on a group of Palestinian demonstrators. A shell was fired towards the two boys, instantly killing Mu'ath, who was hit directly in the head. Ahmad was lightly wounded in the attack.

This incident had a grave impact on the psycho-social health of Ahmad. Ahmad began having difficulty sleeping well, plagued by restless sleep or sleep interrupted by nightmares. He also began suffering from involuntary urination. He completely isolated himself from his peers and ceased leaving the house. Ahmad also became very moody, which was reflected in his behavior towards his family members.

Lack of financial resources, especially following his father's detention, and imposed closures denying access to Jerusalem for work or to visit relatives exacerbated his difficulties and made him feel alone with no one to turn to for help. A feeling that was intensified given his father's absence from the home and his mother's extremely busy schedule caring for the three younger siblings. Ahmad's situation deteriorated to the extent that he was unable to communicate in an effective or healthy manner with his family and his peers in the neighborhood.

His relationship with his mother developed into aggressive interactions, filled with verbal abuse. This pattern affected the entire family and mutual aggression became the main characteristic governing family relationship. The relationship with the father's extended family was constantly tense and withdrawn given that the latter had not accepted Ahmad's parents marriage in the first place.

Means of acquaintance between DCI/PS and the family was through a lecture attended by the mother at "Aljaza'er School" on how to deal with children in times of crisis. The mother discussed the situation of her son, Ahmad, and revealed that their relationship is full of aggression. It was agreed with her to follow-up Ahmad's case through individual and family counseling sessions.



#### Positive and Negatives Aspects of Ahmad's Life, as delineated by him

POSITIVES	NEGATIVES
A family trip to the sea.	His father's imprisonment.
School enrollment	The confiscation and destruction of his bicycle by the Israeli soldiers.
His friendship with his peers in the neighborhood.	Physical assault by the Israeli settlers.
His family's weekly trips to visit his uncles in Jerusalem.	Being wounded while playing with his friend.
His participation in summer camps.	The killing of his friend Mu'ath Abu Hadwan by Israeli soldiers.
His good health condition.	Dwelling in an old unhealthy house.
Purchasing a bicycle.	His prevention to visit his father in jail by the Israelis.
The birth of his younger twin brothers after six years as an only child.	

#### *Bio-Psycho-Social Assessment*

Ahmad has lived in the love and care of his parents as the eldest child in the family. He traveled to Jerusalem a lot and enjoyed it because of the affection he received from his uncles there. He always felt special given that for many years he was the only child in the family. When he was five, he was assaulted by Israeli settlers. He was later shot by a rubber bullet and was treated at Alia Hospital in Hebron. He lives in a house that lies on the confrontation line between the H1 (Palestinian controlled) and H2 (Israeli controlled) areas of Hebron. As a result, his house has been frequently been tear gassed and his with live ammunition.

#### *Identification of the Problem*

Ahmad suffers post trauma symptoms causing him to have trouble sleeping, characterized by disturbing dreams and nightmares. He is scared to leave home after dark and possesses feelings of guilt, believing that he is responsible for his friend Mu'ath's death. He also suffers from involuntary urination, withdrawal and lack of concentration. Academically, his performance and concentration level has declined.

#### *Short-term Objectives of the Intervention*

- To provide the beneficiary with the opportunity to express his feelings and painful experiences.
- To involve the beneficiary in school, summer, expressive, and entertaining activities.
- To enhance the channels of communication between the beneficiary and his mother.
- To provide the mother with the opportunity to convey her feelings of deprivation, fears and concerns.
- To incorporate the beneficiary in group counseling sessions.
- To establish assistance and support channels to help the beneficiary at school.

#### *Procedure*

Work with the beneficiary was in two forms: 1. Counseling sessions on an individual basis; and 2. Sessions with members of the same neighborhood within the group counseling and support groups. Different activities were carried out such as games, drawing, role-playing, and music. Also, the beneficiary participated in the Al-Aroub Awareness Festival and the Neighborhood Festival held in Abu Sneineh (see below), together with his mother, brothers and sister. In addition, six counseling sessions were held that included the beneficiary and his mother in order to improve their

relationship and the communication process between them. A counseling session was held with the mother to help her express her feelings and experiences. During the summer vacation, the beneficiary was enrolled in a summer camp in which he participated in a scout group, cultural activities, and a folkloric dance group.

### **Evaluation**

- The beneficiary effectively discussed his feelings and the challenges facing him, particularly the loss of his friend and the resulting pain.
- The mother was able to understand the change in her son's behavior and realize that it was an effect of the trauma he experienced.
- The activities the beneficiary participated in, such as the festivals and summer events, contributed a great deal to his self-assertiveness. He also became better able to explain the event that resulted his friend's death and understood that he was not to blame.
- His relationship with his mother and the rest of the family improved considerably.

### **Recommendations**

The family is in need of further follow-up since the elements of tension are still existing in the sense that Israeli military attacks and harassment still take place, including live gun fire and tear gas attacks. The family's is still in need, financially and emotionally. Thus, the support of the extended family, the local community and community based organizations are still required.

## **b Group Counseling**

The Social Program worked with two groups of children through group counseling for the purpose of expressing painful feelings and sharing experiences with each other in order to assist in coping with crisis. The groups were as follows:

1. A group of nine children, ranging in age from nine and eleven years, from Haret Asheikh neighborhood. Haret Asheikh is an area of regular confrontation between Palestinians and Israeli soldiers in Hebron, as it is located in the area where the H1 (Palestinian control) and H2 (Israeli control) areas meet. The homes of the children were subjected to regular shooting attacks and forced invasions by Israeli soldiers. The children in the group witnessed the killing of their friend Mu'ath Abu Hadwan, while they were playing with Mu'ath, in October 2000.

Five meetings were held with the group, for one hour and fifteen minutes each meeting. The children participated in a television show for Swiss TV and participated in an art workshop with representatives of Doctors Without Borders.

2. A group consisting of eleven children from Tel Alrumeida and Bab Azawieh neighborhoods, ranging in age from 11 to 13. This group of children also reside in areas of regular confrontation and were subject to assaults and attacks by Israeli military forces and forced invasions of their homes.

Five counseling sessions were held, during which members had the chance to discuss their feelings and experiences. Relaxation exercises were given to them and opportunities were provided to allow them to express themselves and ventilate their emotions regarding the difficult circumstances in which they live.

The group participated in a television program for a French television station. The children guided the television crew on a field trip around the Tel Alrumeida neighborhood and accompanied them on visits to victimized children and families in the neighborhood.

## **c** Cases Transferred to Other Institutions

In order to assist in meeting the needs of local residents, the Social Program facilitated the transfer of the following cases (some of the cases are of children DCI/PS has worked with, and some are referral cases only) to specialized institutions for follow-up:

1. Two cases were transferred to HAMOKED, The Center for the Defense of the Individual for legal follow-up.
2. Three cases were transferred to LAW, for follow-up regarding cases of land confiscation and home demolition warnings.
3. Six cases were transferred to the Palestinian Ministry of Social Affairs – Child Protection Program for in-kind assistance.
4. Four cases were transferred to Terre des Hommes for medical follow-up.
5. Ten cases were transferred to the Clinic of the Health Work Committees in Halhoul for medical follow-up.
6. Six cases were transferred to Az-zakat Committee for financial aid.
7. Two cases were referred to the Union of Palestinian Workers for financial aid.
8. Three children were transferred to the YMCA for disability rehabilitation.
9. Three children were transferred to the Palestinian Red Crescent Society- Dweirian Center for disability rehabilitation.
10. One case was referred to Caritas in Jerusalem. The child was assisted with an amount of 500 NIS.
11. Two cases were transferred to the Palestinian Red Crescent Society for physiotherapy.
12. Three cases were transferred to the YMCA in Jericho for vocational training.
13. Two cases were transferred to the Women's Center for Legal Aid and Counseling.
14. One case was transferred to the Palestinian Children's Relief Fund for medical assistance.

## **d** Awareness Raising Activities

### *1. Lectures*

In Hebron, a number of lectures were coordinated with the Palestinian Ministry of Education's coordinator. The lectures concentrated on how to deal with children and their reactions in times of crisis. Emphasis was placed on symptoms children may exhibit and effective, healthy ways in which adults can address these symptoms. The activities targeted kindergarten supervisors and mothers of children in various locations. In addition, numerous lectures were given targeting children. These lectures addressed the topic of children's rights and the effects of crises on children. The number of child beneficiaries was 372 students of both sexes.

LOCATION	TOPIC	DURATION	PARTICIPANTS
Green Paradise Kindergarten	Dealing with children in times of crisis <sup>7</sup>	Two hours	40 supervisors and mothers
Beit Awwa Society Kindergarten	Dealing with children in times of crisis	Two hours	20 supervisors and mothers
Yatta Kindergartens	Dealing with children in times of crisis	Two hours and a half	50 supervisors
Sammou Kindergartens	Dealing with children in times of crisis	Two hours	50 supervisors and mothers
Ath-thahrieh Kindergartens	Dealing with children in times of crisis	Two hours	40 supervisors
Bint Ilreef Kindergarten, Yatta	Dealing with children in times of crisis	Two hours and a half	50 supervisors and mothers

LOCATION	TOPIC	DURATION	PARTICIPANTS
Ghassan Kanafani Kindergartens, Ithna	Dealing with children in times of crisis	Two hours	35 supervisors and mothers
Beit Almaqdes Kindergartens, Hebron	Dealing with children in times of crisis	Two hours	40 supervisors and mothers
Alribat Kindergartens, Hebron	Dealing with children in times of crisis	Two hours	35 supervisors and mothers
Alwuroud Kindergartens, Hebron	Dealing with children in times of crisis	Two hours	30 supervisors and mothers
Alnour Kindergarten, Hebron	Dealing with children in times of crisis	Two hours and a half	40 supervisors and mothers
The Red Crescent Kindergartens, Hebron	Dealing with children in times of crisis	Two hours and a half	40 supervisors and mothers
Khalil Alrahman Kindergartens, Hebron	Dealing with children in times of crisis	Two hours	45 supervisors and mothers
The Red Crescent Kindergartens, Dweirian	Dealing with children in times of crisis	Two hours	50 supervisors and mothers
Alqwasmeh School	Dealing with children in times of crisis	Two hours and a half	50 teachers and mothers
Aljaza'er School	Dealing with children in times of crisis	Two hours and a half	25 mothers
Alfaiha' School	Dealing with children in times of crisis	Two hours	35 teachers and mothers
Alyaqatha School	Dealing with children in times of crisis	Two hours	25 teachers and mothers
Alnaser School	Dealing with children in times of crisis	Two hours	25 teachers and mothers
Alibrahimieh School	Dealing with children in times of crisis	Two hours	40 female students and mothers
Im Ammar School	Dealing with children in times of crisis	Two hours	30 female students and mothers
Parent-teacher Association, Alqwasmeh School	Dealing with children in times of crisis	Two hours	30 teachers and fathers
Dura Elementary School	Children's Rights	Two hours	40 male students
Mennonite School	The effect of Crises on Children	Two hours	30 male students
Alqwasmeh School	The effect of Crises on Children	Two hours	35 female students
Alfaiha' School	The effect of Crises on Children	Two hours	30 female students
Im Ammar School	The effect of Crises on Children	Two hours	32 female students
Alibrahimieh School	The effect of Crises on Children	Two hours	40 male students
Aljaza'er School	The effect of Crises on Children	Two hours	70 male students
Alyaqatha School	The effect of Crises on Children	Two hours	55 female students
Alnaser School	The effect of Crises on Children	Two hours	55 female students
Almuhamadih School	The effect of Crises on Children	Two hours	60 female students

<sup>7</sup> Concentration was on the apparent problems and effects on children in times of crisis (involuntary urination, sleeping hardships, fear,...etc.) and on directing parents on how to deal with children who show these symptoms.

LOCATION	TOPIC	DURATION	PARTICIPANTS
Beit Awwa Charitable Society	Children's Psychological Health	Two hours	32 mothers and social workers
Tarqoumia Women's Center	Children's Psychological Health	Two hours	50 mothers and the administrative board
Palestinian Child Cultural center	Children's Psychological Health	Two hours	40 mothers
Halhoul Women Charitable Society	Children's Psychological Health	Two hours	50 women
Alshyoukh Women's Center	Children's Psychological Health	Two hours	30 mothers
Alburj Youth Sports Club	Children's Psychological Health	Two hours	20 male students and fathers
Al-Quds Open University	Children's Psychological Health	Two hours	25 students of both sexes





## 2. Workshops

The following six workshops were implemented:

1. In coordination with Ibda' Center in Bethlehem, a workshop was implemented on children's rights and family protection. The workshop lasted for six hours and 18 teachers participated.
2. A workshop was conducted, at Halhoul Women's Charitable Society, on violence against children. The workshop lasted for six hours and 45 mothers attended.
3. A workshop on the Convention on the Rights of the Child was held in coordination with the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The workshop lasted for eight hours and was attended by 25 boy and girl scouts, ranging in age from 14 to 16.
4. A workshop with 40 male and female volunteers from the Red Crescent Society was held on the CRC.
5. A workshop was implemented, in coordination with the Young Women Leaders program of the Women's Affairs Technical Committee, in which 22 female students from the Sociology Department of the University of Hebron attended. The workshop was on psychological debriefing and lasted for five hours.
6. A workshop on how to deal with wounded children and their reactions was held in coordination with the Social Center for the Rehabilitation of the Handicapped in Al-Fawwar Refugee Camp. The workshop lasted for five hours and 15 mothers of wounded children participated.

## 3. Activities in Summer Camps

Children from seven summer camps were targeted to participate in activities concerning the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The total number of children beneficiaries was 250. Details on the activities follow:

1. Al-Arroub Women's Center summer camp: 30 children, ages 12-14, of both sexes participated in a two hour activity on the CRC.
2. The Progressive Youth Society's summer camp – Al-Arroub Refugee Camp: 30 students, ages 10-14, participated in a 2 hour awareness activity.
3. The Islamic Charitable Society – Alshyokh summer camp: 40 girls, ages 10-12, participated in a 2 hour awareness activity.
4. The Red Crescent Society – Bani Na'im summer camp: the activity included a group of young female scouts ages between 14 and 16 and a group of young men scouts of the same ages. Sixty children were the total beneficiaries.
5. The Red Crescent Society summer camp – Alshyokh: 30 children, ages 14-16 years, participated in a two-hour activity.
6. Alshyokh Boys School summer camp: 30 students participated in a two-hour activity.
7. Al-Arroub Youth Club's summer camp: 30 students participated in a two-hour activity.



## **e Training Courses**

The Social Program implemented eight training courses in 2001, with a total of 543 participants. The training courses focused on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and crisis intervention, as follows:

1. A 15-hour training course at Al-Arroub Women's Center on crisis intervention with children. Twenty-five women from the Administrative Board of the center as well as kindergarten supervisors attended the course.
2. A 12-hour training course at Al-Fawwar Women's Center on crisis intervention with children. Twenty-five women from the Administrative Board of the center and kindergarten supervisors attended the course.
3. A 15-hour training course at the Red Crescent Society on crisis intervention. Twenty-six people of both sexes, consisting of field volunteers at PRCS, social workers and kindergarten supervisors attended the course.
4. A 36-hour training course on crisis intervention with children. Thirty-two employees of the Women's Affairs Technical in the Hebron and Bethlehem areas attended the course.
5. A 70-hour training course on women's rights, in the context of human and children's rights, was implemented in coordination with Sanabel Project – Campaigning with Rural Women, a project of the Women's Affairs Technical Committee. The course included 175 women leaders from Sikkeh, Beit Elrush, Deir Samet, Tarqoumia, Yatta, Alsamou', and Beit Awwa with an average of 10 training hours in each village.
6. A 10-hour training course in coordination with the Women's Affairs Technical Committee – Young Women Leaders Project on self assertiveness, in which 22 female Social Studies students from Al-Quds Open University and Hebron University participated.
7. A 70-hour training course on community intervention techniques was conducted, in coordination with Sanabel Project – Campaigning with Rural Women, implemented by the Women's Affairs Technical Committee. It included 175 women leaders from Sikkeh, Deir Samet, Tarqoumia, Yatta, Alsamou', and Beit Awwa with an average of 10 training hours in each village.
8. A 12-hour training course on individual and community counseling skills and violence against children in which 30 educational advisers from South Hebron Education Directorate participated.



## **f** Festivals, Marches, and Other Public Activities for Children

1. **Al-Arroub Awareness Festival:** The festival was a solidarity activity with the families of two children killed by Israeli military forces, 14 year old Shawkat Alalami, and 13 year old Ala' Mahfouth. 400 children from different kindergartens in Al-Arroub and Beit Ummar participated in the event. A number of art workshops and performances (masks and hats, face paintings, balloons, magic act, and a clown's act) were conducted. At the end of the festival, presents were distributed to children.
2. **Abu Sneineh Neighborhood Festival:** The festival was carried out in Alnahda Basic School in Hebron after repeated attacks on the area by the Israeli military. 600 children attended the festival in which many art, health and awareness raising workshops were held (makeup and face paintings, drama, health, magic act, and clown performance).
3. **March in Solidarity with Palestinian Child Political Prisoners:** In accordance with the FREEDOM NOW! Campaign to Free Palestinian Child Political Prisoners, a march was organized in which many public figures, organizations' representatives, students and released child prisoners and their families took part. The march was one of several activities during an Open Day in solidarity with detained children. The open day included other activities such as an art workshop for children, a meeting with the parents of children detainees and an explanation of the campaign and its goal and objectives.



## **g** Field Supervision of Students

Individual supervision of field training of students was carried out, including supervision of eleven students from Bethlehem University, four students from Al-Quds University in Hebron, and two students from the Continuing Education Department of Hebron University. All of them are social studies students.

## *Crisis Intervention Project*

In 2001, a major focus of the work of the Social Program was implementing the DCI/PS Crisis Intervention Project (CIP). The past year witnessed the second phase of the CIP, which began in 2000 as a response to increased levels of violence witnessed by children, following the beginning of the Intifada. The CIP project was implemented in six areas of the West Bank: Ramallah, Hebron, Jenin, Tulkarm, Bethlehem, and Nablus.

The primary objective of the project was to reduce the short-term negative psycho-social affects on Palestinian children as a result of recent experiences.

The goals of project activities were as follows:

- a.** To raise resident's general level of awareness about the difficulties which children may face as a result of the current situation, and the importance of understanding and supporting children.
- b.** To give children a chance to ventilate their feelings, help them express themselves and the difficulties they face, and listen to their problems.
- c.** To provide psychological support for children, and enhance their abilities to deal with the emergency situation.
- d.** To provide entertainment to children to help ease their anxieties.

### *Preparatory Stage:*

The first stage of the second phase was characterized by preparing for the project on the internal, organizational and social levels. Area coordinators were notified of the second stage of the project in early April, their contracts renewed and a number of new coordinators were contracted.

An announcement was placed in the local newspapers for the outset of the project activities in the West Bank, explaining the project and announcing the possibility for other organizations and the local community to benefit from the services offered by the project, such as activities and instructive training to mitigate the suffering due to the current situation. In addition, letters were sent to various organizations including universities, children's organizations, clubs etc. to invite them to participate in the project activities and the associated training.

Prior to the outset of the project activities, DCI/PS contacted all the trainers to discuss the material to be utilized in the training, in order to complement the first stage of the project, rather than duplicate it. The material emphasized planning, communication, leadership, working with a group and within a group, executing recreational supportive activities with children, in addition to psychodrama. The appropriate trainers for each area were nominated, the training material discussed and the training scheduled.



Documents prepared in the first stage of the project were revised, updated, and improved. In addition, other information was attached to facilitate the coordinators' work in administrative and financial respects so as to ensure the efficiency and facilitation of report writing, including narrative, financial and other relevant reports on project implementation.

Prior to the outset of the project activities, a meeting with the coordinators in all the areas was held to discuss the view, aims and the relevant activities of the project. Participants discussed their work and roles, in addition to the manner of communication. Moreover, all the material and documents relating to the project were distributed and their content and mechanism were explained.

During the first month it was agreed to launch the activities, and a number of duties were outlined, particularly concerning recruiting volunteers as well as preparing for training in the various areas. Afterwards, monthly meetings with the coordinators were held to deal with the progress of work and activities as well as field application of the action plan.

#### ***The Outset of the Project Activities:***

**Recruitment of Volunteers:** During the first week of the project, 25 volunteers for each area were recruited. The volunteers were from the following groups:

- Students of Palestinian universities and colleges who were studying social science, psychology and education.
- Unemployed graduates of the subjects mentioned above.
- Workers in governmental and non-governmental organizations.
- Active workers in local clubs, societies and organizations.
- Volunteers from the first stage of the project who agreed to participate once again.

**Training:** A training program of 48 hours for each area was executed within 8 days. The content of the course concentrated on developing abilities in executing social and public activities and promoting the volunteer's performance and skill in the following fields:

- Communication, leadership, planning, and coordination among organizations.
- Working with children's groups and working within a group.
- Conducting and executing recreational, relief and support workshops for children, including utilizing balloons and make-up activities for emotional relief and discussion.
- Making dolls, make-up and performing simple plays.
- Psychodrama (practical aspect).





### ***The Activities:***

A variety of project activities were implemented from early April through the end of November 2001. Particular emphasis was placed on children living in high risk areas, such as those repeatedly exposed to shelling and attacks. The activities covered tens of sites, schools and quarters including festivals with many activities such as magic shows, plays, cultural materials, different workshops, open days and recreational workshops (balloons, making up, painting). In addition, lectures and workshops were held.

Moreover, the project was able to convey the training experience to many people from the local community and its local institutions through 160 hours of field training and through visits to local organizations. These visits succeeded in introducing the project and its activities as well as in relaying methods of effectively communicating with children.

Project activities and outreach also placed emphasis on utilizing existing resources in the community in carrying out activities for children. At the same time, project activities included assisting children in need of psycho-social services, particularly individual intervention, and their families.

A total of 70,108 people approximately 87% (61,351) of whom were children, benefited from the project activities. Direct activities with children included the below. Detailed information on number of activities and beneficiaries follows in table format.

- a. Drama:** Drama activities were implemented during "open days," the goals of which are to alleviate children's feelings and other symptoms of anxiety, and enhance their positive feelings.
- b. Open Days:** Open days include a number of different kinds of entertainment and support activities, such as free drawing and various workshops. A number of open days were held in all governorates.
- c. Lectures:** The goal of lectures is to teach families and teachers about the symptoms of trauma that children may exhibit, and how to deal with these problems as family members and teachers.
- d. Training Workshops:** Workshops were held in cooperation with local organizations, clubs, societies, and youth centers. During these workshops project volunteers inform others about their experience and pass on their training to workers and those active in these organizations.
- e. Solidarity Visits:** Groups of children visited injured children and children living in areas exposed to attack. During these visits children present gifts to injured children, talk with them about their experiences and how to deal with them.
- f. Theater Productions:** In cooperation with "Nakhla al-Shibr" theater, "Fetafeet al-Sukr" theater troupe, and "Colors" theater, tens of theater productions were performed for children. The productions present messages geared towards children's problems in an entertaining manner.

The following table shows the total number of beneficiaries according to each type of activity. The main focus of activities with children was providing safe, relaxing recreational experiences for children, wherein they can ventilate their emotions regarding the crisis situation on the ground. For adults, the activities focused on increasing awareness regarding the types of symptoms children victims of violence may experience, particularly in reference to the crisis situation on the ground. The activities provided information to parents regarding how to best deal with the symptoms their children may exhibit.

ALL AREAS		BENEFICIARIES			
Activity	Number	Adult	Child	Volunteers	Total Benef.
Open Day	110	788	20356	539	21683
Lectures	106	2489	824	106	3419
Festivals	13	365	8495	146	9247
Visits to Injured Children	102	94	214	109	427
Art Workshops	175	447	9731	656	10799
Counseling (Individual and Group)	157	740	963	96	1789
Theater Shows	59	591	12705	334	13628
Psycho-drama	29	180	767	60	957
Coordination Meetings	167				
Training <sup>8</sup>	19	245		34	451
Marches	10	170	4650	86	4909
Media	50				
Health check-ups (only in Hebron)	4	200	650	13	867
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>6628</b>	<b>61351</b>	<b>2202</b>	<b>7010</b>

### ***Publications***

The project published the following materials:

- A publication to identify trauma, how to recognize symptoms of trauma in children, and how can parents help them.
- A publication to identify the current stage of the project, including its past work and current goals.
- Educational awareness stickers for children, including excerpts from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- A school agenda that was distributed among children. The agenda contained information about children's rights, a writing exercise, and was designed to be a useful resource for children in their daily school life.

### ***Media Covering of the Project:***

As mentioned, DCI/PS announced the activities of the project in the local newspapers and invited all organizations to benefit from the project activities. News of project activities was relayed through the coordinators who regularly sent updates to the newspapers after executing a number of activities. DCI/PS also issued monthly publications on the activities. In addition, DCI/PS participated in TV and radio interviews and seminars, concentrating on the project activities and on issues concerning children exposed to trauma.

### ***Networking and Coordination:***

The CIP depended heavily on institutional cooperation, especially in recruiting and training volunteers. Through them, the CIP succeeded in training other professionals. Also, the volunteers were important in coordinating and implementing activities. A strong emphasis on institutional cooperation was also useful in referring clients to the appropriate institutions for service provision, when necessary.

The CIP utilized coordination as a tool in strengthening the network of professionals working with psycho-social effects of violence on children. Many of the project volunteers were chosen from organizations or institutions already providing psycho-social services to children, such as the Ministry of Health, Social Affairs, Al Quds Open University, etc. By participating in the DCI/PS CIP, these individuals were able to receive additional specific training, which they will then be able to utilize in their work in their respective organizations. In addition, once the volunteers received training from the project, they, in turn carried out training for other local professionals. For example, in the Jenin area, another 12 individuals received 16 hours of training in 2 days by project volunteers.

During the course of the project, DCI/PS cooperated with the following organizations and institutions in all phases of the project:

#### **A. Governmental Organizations**

1. Ministry of Social Affairs
2. Ministry of NGOs
3. Ministry of Culture
4. Ministry of Education
5. Ministry of Youth and Sports

#### **B. Non-Governmental Organizations**

1. YMCA
2. PRCS
3. Health Work Committees
4. Sharek Project (UNDP)
5. Popular Art Center
6. Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees
7. Ibdar Cultural Center
8. Universities (Al-Najah, Al Quds Open, American University-Jenin, Al-Quds, Birzeit and Hebron Universities)

#### **C. Other**

1. Municipalities
2. Local Councils, Community Centers, Youth Clubs, Women's Groups, Kindergartens



### *Lessons Learned:*

1. Our work in the project areas highlighted that there is an intense need for qualified professionals capable of dealing with the psycho-social needs of children. In many areas of the West Bank, often those that are severely effected by the current violence, there simply are no professionals to refer children and their families too. Our experience also highlighted that many of the social workers, who had graduated already from university, were in need of additional training. Moreover, our experience highlighted the discrepancy in the skill level of various graduates. Simply put, not all universities graduate qualified professionals, so there is also a need for better training within university.
2. In general, we found that while we were able to work with thousands of children and implement hundreds of activities, the project period was too short to lead to any concrete change. This fact points to the great need for similar activities and projects on a longer term basis. While unlikely in the immediate future, even if the situation on the ground should improve, the effects of the last year of violence will be evident for years to come. It is imperative that the psycho-social effects on children be addressed if these children are to be able to develop in a healthy and normal manner.
3. Overcoming the obstacles on the ground highlighted to us two issues: a. That creativity and flexibility in planning and implementation are absolutely necessary. One must accustom oneself to devising solutions for overcoming obstacles that sporadically appear; and b) That even in the most difficult situations, if one uses creativity and flexibility, project activities can proceed.
4. There is a need to focus more on neglected or marginalized areas or groups of children in the West Bank. Often times we found that in certain of these areas, there was a serious lack of activities for children, even though there was a great need. More emphasis needs to be placed on ensuring that children in remote areas have as great access to activities as those in more urban areas.



## 4. Research and International Advocacy



Despite the difficult circumstances on the ground in the year 2001, DCI/PS has been particularly active on an international level in regards to advocacy for child rights. DCI/PS has supported this advocacy work through a research program aimed at producing a comprehensive picture of the situation of Palestinian children supported by detailed documentation and analysis.

Both these areas of work are prioritized by DCI/PS as a cross-cutting component of all sectors of our intervention around Palestinian child rights. Thus material for research is collected through DCI/PS's Documentation and Legal Aid work, and our advocacy work has been supported through visits to the Educational and Social Program in Hebron and other cities.

### Advocacy Activities

- Redesigning and launching of the DCI/PS website at <http://www.dci-pal.org>. The website contains all DCI/PS press releases, downloadable versions of DCI/PS reports including "A Generation Denied," and annual reports, suggestions for campaigning and advocacy and regularly updated statistics on Palestinian children.
- Launched an Arabic version of the DCI/PS website with all of the above material available in the Arabic language.

- In August 2001, two representatives of DCI/PS traveled to Jordan to testify to the United Nations Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The representatives gave a detailed discussion on the situation of Palestinian children with special reference to child prisoners.

- In September 2001, DCI/PS launched a major international campaign entitled Campaign to Free Palestinian Child Political Prisoners. The campaign aims to work towards the release of all Palestinian child detainees and involves extensive efforts at raising awareness of the issue on the international level through:





- Establishing links with organizations in other countries who will conduct advocacy work amongst their own communities.
- Producing a series of eight high quality fact sheets and a poster on the theme of Palestinian Child Prisoners in Israeli jails
- Launching a special website devoted to the issue of Palestinian child political prisoners (<http://www.dci-pal.org/english/prisonweb>) which contains case studies and background information on the issue of child political prisoners.
- Producing five Child Prisoner Briefings in the year 2001 with updates on the campaign, the situation inside prisons and case studies of child prisoners.
- Meeting with a large number of journalists to advocate around the issue of Palestinian child detainees. Over 50 such meetings were held with journalists from the BBC, Le Monde, USA Today, Netherlands, Sweden, Australia, Belgium, France and Canada.
- Organizing fact-finding missions and trial observers from international organizations. In particular, three missions from the Swedish International Commission of Jurists were organized to observe Military Court sessions and meet with ex-child detainees.
- Organizing delegations from the international community to visit ex-child detainees. This included a one day tour by representatives of Dutch NGOs to Hebron in November.
- The French NGO Platform has adopted the campaign and assisted in the organization of a speaking tour of DCI/PS' lawyer and an Israeli lawyer to Paris in December.
- Organizing & coordinating media work for the International Day of Action commemorating the UN Convention on the

Rights of the Child. Activities included a march in Ramallah & a petition delivered to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

- Attendance at the World Organization Against Torture Conference held in Finland in November. DCI/PS was one of the nine international members of the Drafting and Steering Committee for the conference. In addition, DCI/PS produced a working paper for the conference concerning the international debate around the issue of torture with specific reference to the case of Palestinian children.
- Participated in the UN Committee Against Torture's meetings to discuss the State of Israel's Third Periodic Report on measures taking in compliance with the UN Convention Against Torture, in November 2001.
- Oral intervention provided at the 56th session of the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva.
- Participation in an international conference on child abuse held in Istanbul, Turkey, upon an invitation by the ISPCAN.
- Thirty-one press releases were produced by DCI/PS in the year 2001. These press releases covered a wide variety of violations against Palestinian children from a rights based perspectives and are available at <http://www.dci-pal.org/english>
- A number of interventions in international gatherings such as in the 2nd and 3rd Preparatory Committee Meetings for the UN General Assembly's Special Session on Children, were carried out by DCI/PS staff.
- Publishing several articles in the local press and giving interviews concerning child's rights in Palestine.

- Facilitating field visits with Palestinian children and their families for members of the local and international media and foreign delegations.

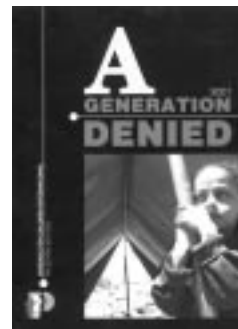
- Participation in the "Jerusalem Day Conference" in Jordan on the realities Palestinian children living in Jerusalem face under the Israeli Authorities. An oral testimony was presented by a mother of a martyr and a report about youth under occupation prepared by a group representing Palestinian youth were presented. A special issue of the publication "Little Hands" about children in Jerusalem was published for the occasion.



## Research Work

In 2001, DCI/PS undertook two major research projects. In April, we published a comprehensive 300-page report entitled *A Generation Denied*, which deals with the impact of Israel's human rights violations during the Palestinian Intifada on Palestinian children. The report is unique in its scope and detail, based on DCI/PS research and fieldwork, as well as thorough analysis into other existing documentation.

Secondly, DCI/PS has coordinated the production of a research study covering Israeli violations of Palestinian children's rights since 1992. The research work was carried out by a team of researchers from various Palestinian organizations including DCI/PS. DCI/PS supervised the research work and has organized the editing and translation of the material. This material formed the basis of an Alternative Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, which will be examined as part of the Committee's discussion on Israel's report on the implementation of the CRC.



In addition to these two major research projects, DCI/PS has produced many smaller publications and submissions to UN and other human rights organizations, including meeting on two occasions with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Other research work included a report on landmines and UXO in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for submission to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines' annual publication, the Landmine Monitor Report. DCI/PS staff attended a meeting for ICBL researchers in Washington, DC.





# **Obstacles Encountered and Strategies for Overcoming Them**

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## Obstacles Encountered and Strategies for Overcoming Them



The year 2001 witnessed a further deterioration in the situation on the ground and an unprecedented military siege on the occupied territories. A gross increase in child rights violations combined with Israeli imposed restrictions on freedom of movement for Palestinian residents of the occupied territories challenged the organization consistently throughout the year.

Restrictions on movement made it extremely difficult, if not impossible at times, to properly plan and implement activities in the field as scheduled. At the same time, these restrictions frequently impeded the ability of staff living outside of Ramallah from reaching the DCI/PS main office in the city. Out of ten staff members working in the Ramallah office, five live outside of the Ramallah area. Staff members regularly spent several hours each day on the road, attempting to enter Ramallah or reach their homes at the end of the work day.

With respect to the DCI/PS office in Hebron, the frequent complete closure of Hebron led to great difficulties in reaching the city and surrounding villages. Oftentimes, the staff members had to go through bypass and rough roads to arrive to the office or to activities. Movement restrictions in the Hebron area in 2001 were also accompanied by repeated attacks on and harassment of Palestinians

trying to reach their places of work. Staff members were often unable to reach the workplace on time as a result of being chased by soldiers, shot at, or having tear gas fired at them. In addition, the DCI/PS office in Hebron sustained damage during an Israeli military attack in 2001. On 29 August 2001, shelling in the neighborhood of the office resulted in the destruction of the doors and windows of the office. The closure of the Old City of Hebron for a period of 193 days in the year 2001, also prevented staff members from reaching targeted families.

Thus, for significant portions of time, the in-office capacity of DCI/PS was severely diminished. Also, the restrictions have lengthened the amount of time and energy necessary to complete simple work tasks, as every other office/organization in the occupied territories is suffering the same situation. Moreover, DCI/PS staff members worked in an environment of constant stress and insecurity in 2001 as a result of the objective factors on the ground, as described above.

Among the main problems faced by DCI/PS staff during the year 2001 was an increase in volume of work juxtaposed with diminished human resources due to factors mentioned above. This led to an increase in the workload and pressure on staff. For example, though the number of violations of child rights continued

to increase, the ability of DCI/PS to document these cases was impeded due to mobility restrictions imposed by the Israeli closures and sieges of Palestinian areas. Field workers, researchers and volunteers were hampered in their quest to collect information. In addition, the scale of the violations, reaching into the thousands, extended beyond the current capacity of DCI/PS. In spite of these obstacles, DCI/PS managed to document over 4,000 violations of Palestinian children's rights in 2001.

A major problem was thus a logistical one resulting from the closures of the Palestinian areas and the separation of the Palestinian Governorates. Good relations with our partners, helped us in overcoming these problems. For example, working with the Educational Directorate Offices in order to supervise Mine Awareness volunteers in areas which DCI/PS was unable to reach. Moreover, we succeeded in converting some of these problems into opportunities such as utilizing mass media as a tool for conveying awareness messages. But at the same time some of our activities had to be postponed or re-scheduled because volunteers were barred from entering into certain areas because of the checkpoints.

One strategy utilized by DCI/PS was to carefully select qualified professionals from a variety of geographical locations, such as cities, villages and refugee camps, so that they



would be able to carry out projects within their areas, rather than having to travel through checkpoints, which are often closed. Also, DCI/PS provided the project team with training enabling them to implement activities for children with little or no resources or resources easily available to them.

In other instances, restrictions on freedom of movement were overcome with adequate planning. For instance, in the Jenin area, which was often difficult to access from other areas of the West Bank, performers were sent to the area for extended periods of time (i.e. 6 - 7 days) wherein they would implement a range of activities for children. This approach was implemented, rather than utilizing these performers one day here and one day there, so that there would be a greater probability that the events would take place (i.e. it is more likely that the performer could enter Jenin once, than it is that they would be able to do so seven separate times).

Another problem encountered regarded the Crisis Intervention project, in that there are a great number of children in need of psycho-social services, but there is a lack of qualified professionals able to offer such services in all the project areas. Though from the beginning, the project did not intend to offer individual interventions, when project staff or volunteers came upon such children, a number of approaches were implemented: 1. To refer the child and his/her family to existing professionals in the area; or 2. To work with parents and teachers to equip them with the basic knowledge necessary to deal with the children's symptoms. This latter approach fell within a larger goal of the project to increase the capacity of professionals whose work deals with children as well as parents.

These factors combined impacted the work of the organization and challenged DCI/PS to be creative and flexible in undertaking activities in fulfillment of our action plan in spite of the objective obstacles repeatedly

placed on the ground as part of Israeli occupation policy. Though 2001 has been an extremely trying one, we believe it has also taught us valuable lessons that will assist us in more efficiently and effectively working to promote and protect Palestinian children's





*On the  
Administrative Level*

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## On the Administrative Level

rights in an environment of ongoing crisis. On Friday, 16 November 2001, the DCI/PS General Assembly met in Ramallah. During the meeting, DCI/PS's annual narrative and financial reports for 2000 were discussed, as well as the work of the organization since the beginning of the Intifada. The General Assembly viewed positively the work and agreed that the implemented projects and programs fell within the mandate of DCI/PS. Moreover, they noted a positive development in the quantity and the quality of DCI/PS's work during the past 3 years, the period of the last action plan. The group also approved the new DCI/PS action plan, covering the years 2002-2004.

At the end of the meeting, the General Assembly held elections for the new Administrative Committee of DCI/PS. After seven years as Chairman of DCI/PS and due to his recent election as Chairman of another organization, Dr. Elias Rishmawi resigned as the head of the DCI/PS Board. Dr. Elias played a key role in guiding and supporting the work of DCI/PS and the organization looks forward to his continued participation as a member of the General Assembly.

The following individuals were elected by the General Assembly to serve two year terms on the DCI/PS Administrative Committee:

### DCI/PS Administrative Committee

#### Chairman

**Rifat Kassis**  
founder of DCI/PS

#### Members of the Administrative Committee

May Shaheen  
Nidal Abu Zulof  
Iman Hammouri  
Nader Abu Amsha  
Ibrahim Al-Masri  
Hussam Sababa

**In addition  
the General Assembly elected an advisory Committee,  
consisting of the following individuals**

Zakaria Odeh  
Naim Abu Teir  
Sahar Francis  
Suleima Abu Al-Haj

Each of the members brings with them specialized knowledge and expertise in fields that will not only support the work of the organization, but will assist also DCI/PS in continually challenging ourselves to utilize the most creative, effective and efficient means in the advancement of our mandate.

Following the elections, the new Chairman made a short statement, which focused on the evolution of DCI/PS, since its establishment in 1992 to the present. He noted the many positive developments in the work of the organization and highlighted that the primary factor effecting DCI/PS's success has been its dedicated staff and volunteers.

The Chairman's statement also focused on the main challenges facing DCI/PS, offering ways of confronting and overcoming those challenges in fulfillment of our mandate. First, he noted the importance of expanding the organizations volunteer base, in particular

activating and expanding the support the General Assembly provides to the organization. He highlighted the positive role of having a base of specialists actively involved in the work of the organization, both in terms of specific DCI/PS projects and programs and of child rights work in general.

Second, he emphasized the difficult situation that Palestinian children are living under and the importance of being creative and strong advocates for the rights of Palestinian children, locally and internationally. His third point called upon the new Administrative Committee to undertake a comprehensive review of the work of the organization and to take an active role in developing the vision of the organization, viewing DCI/PS both as an active member of the Palestinian community and as an organization that is part of an international movement advocating for the realization of children's rights. This point, he stressed, is imperative given that it has been

nearly 10 years since the establishment of DCI/PS. In this vein, he discussed the ways in which DCI/PS can take a pioneering and active role in the international child rights movement, particularly the importance of being an efficient and effective member of the DCI movement internationally.

Finally, he noted the importance of continually utilizing creative and flexible means to ensure children's participation in the work and structure of DCI/PS. He stressed the importance of remembering that we are not only working for children, but with children, in fulfillment of our vision of empowering and developing the role of children within Palestinian society.

DCI/PS welcomes the new and positive developments resulting from the General Assembly meeting and is confident that they will assist in furthering and supporting the work of DCI/PS.





Defence for Children International



[www.dci-pal.org](http://www.dci-pal.org)