DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. What types of ill-treatment and rights violations did Obaida experience?


THE FACTS: In the course of his arrest, Obaida was bound by plastic ties, blindfolded, and physically assaulted during interrogation. According to his sworn affidavit, the interrogation also took place without the presence of a lawyer or adult family member. Based on Defense for Children International - Palestine’s evidence, Obaida’s arrest experience was not unique. Children under Israeli military arrest are typically bound and blindfolded before interrogation. Three out of four children endure some kind of physical violence in the course of their detention.

2. What impact do you think such practices have on a child’s personal agency?

[Resource: “OBAIDA” 04:00 - 5:15]

THE FACTS: The routine ill-treatment experienced by Palestinian children during arrest primes them to confess during interrogation, whether or not they did anything wrong. Frightened from a harrowing experience and alone with an interrogator, the vast majority of Palestinian children confess.

3. Why did Obaida undergo military arrest instead of a civilian arrest?


THE FACTS: Military law has applied to Palestinians in the West Bank since 1967, when Israel occupied the territory following the Six Day War. Jewish settlers, however, who reside within the bounds of the West Bank, in violation of international law, are subject to the Israeli civilian legal framework. Accordingly, Israel operates two separate legal systems in the same territory.
4. What kind of rights do Palestinian children have under Israeli military arrest?


**THE FACTS:** Under Israeli military law, children placed under arrest have two main rights: 1) The right to remain silent and; 2) The right to access an attorney prior to interrogation. Children do not have the right to an attorney during interrogation. Parental presence remains at the complete discretion of the interrogator and is nearly always denied.

5. What “push factors” might have contributed to Obaida being arrested twice?

[Resource: “OBAIDA” 00:09 - 00:23, 02:57- 3:28]

**THE FACTS:** Jewish-only Israeli settlements in the West Bank have created a hyper-militarized environment in which Palestinian children grow up. Permanent and temporary checkpoints, the separation barrier, and inter-settlement roads such as Route 60 are major features of Palestinian children’s daily life. Field research and analysis undertaken by DCIP have shown that in addition to inconvenience and insecurity, Palestinian children living in close proximity to Israeli settlements are at higher risk of military arrest.

6. Did Obaida’s detention shape his long-term trajectory?

[Resource: “OBAIDA” 01:50 - 03:57]

**THE FACTS:** Obaida originally planned to finish high school. After his second arrest, he found he was too far behind to catch up. Instead, he entered a technical agricultural training program. Due to the fact that childhood is a uniquely vulnerable period in an individual’s life, deprivation of a child’s liberty should be a last resort under international law.

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**EACH YEAR, THE ISRAELI MILITARY DETAINS AND PROSECUTES AROUND 700 PALESTINIAN CHILDREN. HELP US END THIS.**

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