

Annual Report (Short) June 2013

Action for Palestinian Children

@A4PC

Name: *Israel* Subject: *Human Rights (Palestinian Child Prisoners)*

Targets: *40* Set by: *Children in Military Custody report 2012*

Last year, an independent legal delegation from the United Kingdom assessed Israel's treatment of Palestinian children arrested, detained & prosecuted in military courts. The report, funded by the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office, found Israel in breach of international law and human rights treaties. It made 40 recommendations. Below are seven of the most urgent targets that were set, and a judgement on progress made.

Arrest

Arrests of children should not be carried out at night save for in extreme and unusual circumstances. A pilot study of issuing summonses as an alternative means of arrest should be carried out. *Fail*

Single plastic hand ties should never be used. The existing prohibition should be monitored and enforced, and arresting personnel should be trained accordingly. *Fail*

Interrogation

On arrival at a place of detention, children should be immediately reminded of their right to silence. Their right to consult a lawyer prior to interrogation (in accordance with Military Order 1676) should be respected. **Fail*

Children should have a parent or guardian present prior to and during their interrogation. *Fail*

Interrogations should be audio-visually recorded and the tapes should be made available to the child's lawyer. *Fail*

Sentencing and Detention

Solitary confinement should never be used as a standard mode of detention or imprisonment. *Fail*

Breach of these principles should result in the discontinuation of the prosecution and the child's release. *Fail*

Comments:

This is an extremely disappointing report. Despite claims of progress, very little has changed for Palestinian child prisoners. Military orders and court judgements have had minimum impact on the ground where Palestinian children continue to have their human rights abused and ignored. Israel really must try much, much harder if it is to live up to its claims of being a democratic country committed to equality and freedom.*

Signed: *Action for Palestinian Children* @A4PC

