

PALESTINIAN CHILD PRISONERS



ACTIVIST TOOLKIT

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If you would like support / help / further information or need key campaign tools which are not in this toolkit, please contact james.tuite@palestinecampaign.org

Campaign Objectives

- To raise awareness about the treatment of Palestinian child prisoners.
- To use the issue of child prisoners to engage with new partners.
- To pressure the Government to take meaningful action to protect Palestinian children.

Branch Involvement

- 'Child Prisoners' is a core PSC campaign for 2018/2019. We would like to encourage every PSC branch to organise 2 annual events with a focus on this topic.
- Suggested events are a film screening and/or talk with PSC approved speakers. This toolkit provides a list of films, resources, and speakers that can be used.
- PSC branches are encouraged to get in touch with other organisations to jointly host / promote events and attract new audiences. This includes: The Women's Institute/Faith Groups/Local Amnesty Branches/Constituency Political Party Groups/ and Trade Unions.
- Branches are asked to promote the Child Prisoner campaign on their stands. This includes distributing the factsheet/postcard/and any relevant petitions.
- Branch activists involved in constituency political parties and unions are encouraged to submit motions to be adopted (model motions are included in this toolkit).

Key Dates

- 17th April, Palestinian Prisoner Day
- 20th November, Universal Children's Day

PSC Resources

- a) PSC Child Prisoner [Factsheet](#)
- b) PSC Child Prisoner [Postcard](#)
- c) Social Media [Infographics](#)
- d) Child Prisoner [briefing for MPs](#)

Key Reports

- a) B'Tselem, The Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories 2018: "Statistics on Palestinian minors in the custody of the Israeli security forces". [Link](#)
- b) Defence for Children International report 2016: "No Way to Treat a Child, Palestinian Children in the Israeli Military Detention System". [Link](#)
- c) Military Court Watch report 2016: "Children in Israeli military detention". [Link](#)
- d) Human Rights Watch report 2015: "Israel: Security Forces Abuse Palestinian Children". [Link](#)
- e) UNICEF Update (to 2013 report "Children in Israeli Military Detention") February 2015. [Link](#)
- f) UNICEF report 2013: "Children in Israeli Military Detention". [Link](#)
- g) UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office funded lawyer' report 2012: "Children in Military Custody". [Link](#)

PSC Speakers

If you would like a speaker for your community, organisation, Trade Union branch, or PSC branch – we have speakers available. Please contact the PSC office directly by sending a message to james.tuite@palestinecampaign.org for more info.

Suggested Films

- a) Detaining Dreams (21 mins)

March 2016, Defence for Children International – Palestine

This film features the stories of four Palestinian children arrested by Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank and prosecuted in the Israeli military detention system.

- b) Stone Cold Justice – Documentary (45 mins)

June 2014, ABC Australia documentary

A joint investigation by Four Corners and The Australian newspaper reveals evidence that shows the army is targeting Palestinian boys for arrest and detention. Reporter John Lyons travels to the West Bank to hear the story of children.

- c) Our Land / Nabi Saleh (7mins)

May 2016, National Union of Teachers (England)

Focuses on Janna and Rand, two young girls who live in Nabi Saleh, a village which organises weekly demonstrations against the illegal settlement next to their village.

- d) My name is Saleh / Hebron (7mins)

May 2016, National Union of Teachers (England)

Focusses on the life of a ten-year-old boy in Palestine and the challenges he faces daily on his journey to school.

- e) Two Countries, Two Teenagers (8mins)

November 2017, PSC

The reality of life for Palestinian children living under Israel's unlawful 50-year military occupation is starkly narrated by Ahmad and his family, while Zephi and his family consider what these same circumstances would mean for him as a teenager living in England.

Speaker Notes

These notes are useful if you want to talk about Palestinian Child Prisoners at your community organisation / Union / Political Party:

- Under Israeli military law army commanders have full executive, legislative and judicial authority over 2.8 million Palestinians living in the West Bank.
 - Palestinians have no say in how this authority is exercised.
- Dual Israeli legal systems operate in the West Bank. Palestinians are prosecuted in military courts, whereas Israelis settlers are prosecuted in civilian courts, with far greater rights and protections.
- Military courts used to prosecute civilians are permitted under international law but only on a temporary basis. Israeli military courts used to prosecute Palestinians from the West Bank have been operating since 1967.
- Israeli children, including those living in West Bank settlements, have far more rights and protections under civilian law than Palestinian children under military law.
- Since 1967, over 1,700 military orders have been issued but few have been promptly translated into Arabic, as is required under the Fourth Geneva Convention. In theory, these laws have no legal effect until translated.
- 750,000 - 800,000 Palestinian men, women and children have been detained since 1967.
- Children as young as 12 years can be prosecuted in the military courts.
 - Children are most commonly prosecuted for stone throwing.
 - Approximately half of all detained children are arrested at night and report physical and psychological abuse during arrest, transfer and interrogation.
 - Over 99% of cases in the military courts end in conviction
 - Approximately 50% of Palestinian child detainees are held in prisons in Israel in breach of Article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.
 - Evidence of increasing use of sustained solitary confinement

There have been two important reports on Palestinian Child Prisoners in Military Detention

- **FCO-funded UK Lawyers Report ‘Children in Military Custody’ 2012**
 - Israel in breach of eight of its international legal obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child & Fourth Geneva Convention.
 - Violations include:
 - Discrimination
 - Best interests of the child
 - Premature resort to detention
 - Non-separation from adults
 - Prompt access to lawyers
 - Use of shackles
 - Unlawful transfer and detention outside occupied territory
 - Failure to translate applicable laws
 - Attempts by the UK lawyers to return and check on recommendations have been obstructed by the Israeli authorities.

“If the manner of arrest and detention is to any significant extent that which was described to us by the UN, Israeli and Palestinian NGOs, former Israeli soldiers and Palestinian children, Israel will also be in breach of the prohibition on cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment in article 37(a) of the UNCRC.”

“We record our view that to hold children routinely and for substantial periods in solitary confinement would, if it occurred, be capable of amounting to torture in breach not only of article 37(a) but also of other well-known international instruments.”

CIMC, 2012

- **Children in Military Detention, Unicef, 2013**
 - This report made 38 recommendations which were very similar to the CIMC report of 2012

Description	Number
Painfully Hand Tied	189 (91%)
Blind-folded	162 (78%)
Physical violence	171 (82%)
Verbal abuse	144 (69%)
Transferred on floor of vehicle	89 (43%)
Arrested at night	79 (38%)
Not adequately informed of legal rights (in particular, the right to remain silent and to	163 (78%)

“The ill-treatment of children who come in contact with the military detention system appears to be widespread, systematic and institutionalized throughout the process, from the moment of arrest until the child’s prosecution and eventual conviction and sentencing.”

“...Allegations of ill-treatment of children have not significantly decreased in 2013 and 2014...”

Unicef, 2013

Neither groups have been able to revisit and check on changes

Evidence from Defence of the Child International, Military Court Watch and Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights and other organisations show

- no significant improvements have been made
- the treatment of Palestinian children is either the same or worsening

Model Motion on Palestinian Child Prisoners for Constituency Party Groups

This Constituency Labour/Green/Lib Dem/Conservative/SNP Party notes:

- i) 500-700 Palestinian children are arrested and imprisoned by the Israeli authorities every year.
- ii) Israel is the only country in the world to charge and imprison children under a military court system.
- iii) The 2012 report by the FCO-funded, independent delegation of UK lawyers 'Children in Military Custody' which made 40 recommendations and found Israel in breach of international law and the Geneva Convention.
- iv) That attempts by the UK legal delegation to return and check up on progress made on these recommendations have been blocked by the Israeli authorities.
- v) The 2013 report by Unicef 'Children in Military Detention' which made 30 recommendations and found Israel in breach of international law and the Geneva Convention.
- vi) Evidence from Defence of the Child International, Military Court Watch and other organisations show that Israel has made no real attempt to address these concerns and that there is evidence that the situation is worsening, in particular the rise in the practice of placing children in sustained solitary confinement which amounts to torture.

This Constituency Labour/Green/Lib Dem/Conservative/SNP Party resolves to:

1. Ask our constituency MP to: Sign Early Day Motion 563 Military Detention Of Palestinian Children By Israeli Authorities; table a written parliamentary question to Ministers on this issue; write to the FCO and ask them to press the Israeli government for meaningful action.
2. Submit a proposal to Party's International Policy Commission that this issue should be included in Party's International Policy.
3. Invite a speaker from Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC) to address the Constituency Party at a forthcoming meeting.
4. Affiliate to the Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC).

Model Conference Motion on Palestinian Child Prisoners for Unions

This Conference is appalled at the treatment of Palestinian children by Israel. The arrest of 16-year-old Ahd Tamimi shone a spotlight on Israel's systematic abuse of minors through the process of military detention. The treatment of Ahd rightly generated a global response, but her situation is far from unique.

Each year the Israeli military arrests and prosecutes around 500 to 700 children. From the moment of arrest, Palestinian children encounter ill-treatment and a denial of their basic rights.

Children as young as 12 are routinely: Taken from their homes at gunpoint in night-time raids by soldiers; Blindfolded, bound and shackled; Interrogated without a lawyer or relative being present and with no visual recording; Put into solitary confinement; Forced to sign confessions (often in Hebrew- a language they don't understand).

Conference recognises that these practices involve widespread and systematic violations of international law, and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which Israel is a signatory, and as such condemns them.

Conference believes that Israel has a responsibility under international human rights conventions for the safety, welfare and human rights protection of Palestinian children living under occupation.

Conference welcomes the early day motion 563 tabled in late 2017 (sponsored by Richard Burden MP) and supports its call for "Palestinian children to be treated no less favourably than Israeli children".

Conference supports calls for the recommendations of UNICEF's 2013 report "Children in Israeli military detention", which remain largely unmet, to be carried out in full by the Israeli government without delay and that all children in military detention are released immediately;

Conference also recognises the work of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC) in advocating for the rights of Palestinian children in the UK.

Conference condemns Israel's treatment of Palestinian children and calls on the National Executive Council to:

a) Lobby the UK and devolved governments to press the Government of Israel to end the widespread and systemic human rights violations suffered by Palestinian children in Israeli military custody;

- b) Encourage all branches to write to their MPs and MSPs calling on them to raise this issue in the Westminster and devolved Parliaments and to call on their governments to press the Government of Israel to end the widespread and systemic human rights violations suffered by Palestinian children in Israeli military custody;
- c) Publicise [UNION] position to members to raise awareness of the issue and encourage them to lobby their MPs and MSPs;
- d) Raise the issue of Israel's detention and treatment of Palestinian children through Labour Link and call on them to add their voice to the condemnation of Israel's treatment of Palestinian child prisoners.
- e) Make a donation to the Palestine Solidarity Campaign to support their work.

Appendix / Latest Statistics

In 2017, DCI-Palestine lawyers conducted 60 visits to prisons and collected 161 sworn affidavits and torture forms to monitoring Israeli violations against children during arrest, interrogation and trial. Out of the 161 testimonies, 137 were for children from the West Bank and 24 were for children from East Jerusalem. The analysis of the affidavits and questionnaires as follow:

Ill treatment from	W. Bank & E. Jerusalem	Percent	W. Bank	Percent	E. Jerusalem	Percent
Hand ties and leg ties	150	93.2%	130	94.9%	20	83.3%
Blindfolded	124	77.0%	120	87.6%	4	16.7%
Physical Violence	120	74.5%	102	74.5%	18	75.0%
Verbal Abuse Humiliations and Intimidation	98	60.9%	85	62.0%	13	54.2%
Strip searched	126	78.3%	109	79.6%	17	70.8%
Denial of adequate food and water	57	35.4%	50	36.5%	7	29.2%
Threats and Inducement	52	32.3%	44	32.1%	8	33.3%
Denial of access the Toilet	35	21.7%	35	25.5%	0	0.0%
Position Abuse	31	19.3%	27	19.7%	4	16.7%
Transfer on Vehicle Floor	64	39.8%	63	46.0%	1	4.2%

Shown or signed paper in Hebrew	98	60.9%	75	54.7%	23	95.8%
Solitary Confinement for more than two days	26	16.1%	26	19.0%	0	0.0%
Confinements with Adults	5	3.1%	5	3.6%	0	0.0%
Night Arrest	73	45.3%	69	50.4%	4	16.7%
Not informed of rights	95	59.0%	91	66.4%	4	16.7%
Attempt to recruitment	5	3.1%	5	3.6%	0	0.0%
Not informed of the reason for arrest	138	85.7%	114	83.2%	24	100.0%
No access to counsel prior to interrogation	95	59.0%	90	65.7%	5	20.8%
No Lawyer or family member present during interrogation	156	96.9%	132	96.4%	24	100.0%

For up to date statistics visit DCI/MCW/B'Tselem

<http://www.militarycourtwatch.org/>

<http://nwttac.dci-palestine.org/>

[https://www.btselem.org/statistics/minors in custody](https://www.btselem.org/statistics/minors_in_custody)