

Statement on behalf of Defence for Children International (DCI)

ISRAEL'S ARMED FORCES AND GRAVE VIOLATIONS OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Israel has the dubious distinction of being the only country in the world that systematically prosecutes between 500 and 700 children each year in military courts lacking fundamental fair trial rights.

A hike in the number of Palestinian children incarcerated in Israeli prisons left more Palestinian children exposed to a pattern of routine abuses and rights violations during Israeli military arrests in the first half of 2017 than in recent years.

According to data released by Israeli Prison Service (IPS), 331 Palestinian children were detained in Israeli prisons at the end of May 2017, a 62 percent increase by IPS data from 2012 to 2015 where Israeli authorities held an average of 204 Palestinian children in custody each month.

Defense for Children International - Palestine documentation showed that Israeli forces continued to disregard Palestinian children's internationally enshrined human rights during arrest through practices such as the use of physical violence, position abuse, and other forms ill-treatment as well as depriving children of access to legal counsel.

In October 2015, and the first time since 2011, Israel renewed its use of administrative detention against Palestinian children. Administrative detention is a process whereby a child is detained without charge or trial, often renewable indefinitely.

Defense for Children International - Palestine (DCIP) collected comprehensive data that shows 23 minors have been placed under administrative detention since October 2015.

All minors placed in administrative detention were male. Currently, two Palestinian teens, one of whom has since turned 18, remain in administrative detention.

Five Palestinian children were placed in administrative detention following accusations of inciting or threatening to commit violence in Facebook posts.

Defence for Children International urges all members of the Human Rights Council to:

- Demand that Israeli authorities immediately stop the use of administrative detention orders against Palestinian children and enshrine this prohibition in law;
- Condemn Israeli forces' use of excessive force in against Palestinians the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem; and
- Demand that Israeli forces at all times act in accordance with the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials (1990).