



HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

26th Regular Session

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Israeli forces shoot and kill two Palestinian teens near Ramallah

Statement on behalf of Defence for Children International (DCI)

Thank you Mr. President,

Israeli forces killed two Palestinian teens during clashes on May 15, 2014 outside the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah.

Nadeem Siam Nawara, 17, and Mohammad Mahmoud Odeh, 16, were both fatally shot with live ammunition near Ofer military prison in the West Bank city of Beitunia and later pronounced dead at the Ramallah Medical Complex.

The boys were participating in a demonstration near Ofer military prison to mark Nakba Day and express solidarity with hunger striking Palestinian prisoners currently held in administrative detention by Israel. The demonstration reportedly began peacefully and then turned violent when Israeli forces clashed with Palestinian youths.

Defence for Children International is gravely concerned that Israeli forces continue to use excessive force and recklessly fire live ammunition and rubber-coated metal bullets on unarmed protesters, including children, killing them with impunity in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

While Israel claims to open investigations into such incidents, they are not transparent or independent, and seldom result in a soldier being held accountable.

The [use of live ammunition by soldiers](#) on unarmed Palestinian civilians, including children, has been a recent area of concern to human rights groups. In February, Amnesty International released a [report](#) finding that the Israeli army uses reckless force throughout the West Bank. The killing of Nadeem and Mohammad are just the latest example the violence Palestinian children encounter as a result of the Israeli occupation.

The deaths on May 15 raise the number of Palestinian children killed by Israeli forces in 2014 to four, according to [data collected by DCI-Palestine](#). Over 1,400 Palestinian children have been killed as a result of Israeli military and settler presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory since 2000.

In March, Israeli forces shot and killed Yousef al-Shawamrah, 14, with live ammunition in the southern West Bank near his village of Deir al-Asal al-Fawqa. He was [shot while looking for thistle](#) in an area of land belonging to the village that now sits on the other side of Israel's

separation barrier. As he and two friends crossed through an open area, soldiers fired live ammunition toward the boys, hitting Yousef in the hip and back.

In December 2013, Wajih Wajdi al-Ramahi, 15, from Jalazoun refugee camp north of the West Bank city of Ramallah was fatally shot with live ammunition fired by an Israeli soldier. [Documenting the killing](#), DCI-Palestine found that Wajih had been shot in the back from a distance of 150-200 meters (about 500-650 feet).

The Israeli military's own regulations dictate that live ammunition must be used "only under circumstances of real mortal danger," but the regulations are not enforced and frequently ignored by Israeli soldiers.

Defence for Children International calls on the Human Rights Council to examine the recent killings to determine whether they amount to extrajudicial killings, and to demand that Israeli authorities conduct a serious, impartial and transparent investigation into the May 15 killings and hold the perpetrator accountable.

Thank you, Mr. President.