



**Human Rights Council  
37th Regular Session**

**19 March 2018**

**Statement on behalf of Defence for Children International (DCI)**

**PALESTINIAN CHILD DETAINEES HELD BY ISRAELI AUTHORITIES IN  
ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTION**

Defense for Children International – Palestine (DCIP) documentation in 2017 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.

According to data released by Israeli Prison Service (IPS), 352 Palestinian children were detained in Israeli prisons at the end of December 2017, a 73 percent increase by IPS data from 2012 to 2015 where Israeli authorities held an average of 204 Palestinian children in custody each month.

In October 2015, and the first time since 2011, Israel renewed the practice of administrative detention against Palestinian children in the West Bank.

Defense for Children International - Palestine (DCIP) collected comprehensive data that shows 26 minors have been placed under administrative detention since October 2015. All were male.

Currently, three Palestinian teens, one of whom has since turned 18, remain in administrative detention.

While international humanitarian law permits administrative detention in strictly limited circumstances in only the most exceptional cases for “imperative reasons of security” when there is no other alternative, Israel’s administrative detention of Palestinian children appears to be used as a substitute for criminal prosecution where there is insufficient evidence to obtain a conviction.

Under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, no child should be deprived of his or her liberty arbitrarily and detention should only be used as a measure of last resort for the shortest appropriate period of time.

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

- Demand that Israeli authorities release all Palestinian children held in administrative detention; immediately stop the practice of administrative detention against Palestinian children; and enshrine this prohibition in law.