



**UN Human Rights Council
38th Regular Session | 18 June-6 July 2018
Item 6 - Consideration of UPR Reports – ISRAEL
Statement delivered on behalf of Defence for Children International - Palestine (DCIP)**

Mr. President,

Defence for Children International (DCI) welcomes the Government of Israel's participation in the 3rd cycle of the Universal Periodic Review and the report of the Working Group.

However, DCI is deeply disappointed at Israel's rejection of recommendations aimed at protecting and promoting Palestinian children's human rights. Particularly, the 25 specific recommendations¹ on administrative detention and solitary confinement, including against Palestinian children. In no circumstance should children be detained or prosecuted under the jurisdiction of military courts. However, as a minimum safeguard while Palestinian children living under Israeli military occupation continue to be arrested and prosecuted within the Israeli military court system, Israel should ensure, operations and procedures to detain Palestinian children be carried out in accordance with international juvenile justice standards, specifically the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child to which Israel is State Party.

Israel is the only country in the world that systematically prosecutes between 500 and 700 children each year in military courts lacking fundamental fair trial rights. Ill- treatment in the Israeli military detention system remains widespread, systematic, and institutionalized.

DCI - Palestine collected affidavits from 727 West Bank children detained and prosecuted under the jurisdiction of Israeli military courts between 2012 and 2017. The data shows more than 72 percent of children endured some form of physical violence following detention.

In 334 out of the 727 cases (46 percent), the Israeli military arrested children from their homes in the middle of the night, and in 700 cases (96 percent) children had no parent present during the interrogation or access to legal counsel. Interrogators used physical violence, position abuse, threats, and isolation to coerce confessions from some of these children. Of the 727 children, 117 spent an average of 13 days in solitary confinement solely for interrogation purposes.

Despite repeated calls to end night arrests and ill treatment and torture of Palestinian children in Israeli military detention, Israeli authorities have persistently failed to implement practical changes to stop violence against child detainees.

We express our extreme regret that Israel has consistently failed to implement reforms that substantively address physical violence and torture by Israeli military and police forces. We call on Israel to reconsider its position on these recommendations.

Thank you, Mr. President.

¹U.N. Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Israel*, U.N. Doc. A/HRC/WG.6/29/L.12, (Feb. 1, 2018), recommendation 118.75 (Ireland), 118.77 (Spain); 118.78 (Czechia); 118.79 (France); 118.80 (Germany); 118.82 (Qatar); 118.81 (Italy); 118.83 (Sweden); 118.84 (Finland), 118.123 (Sierra Leone), 118.124 (Austria), 118.125 (South Africa), 118.159 (United Arab Emirates);118.160 (Turkey); 118.162 (Venezuela);118.164 (Norway), 118.165 (Belgium), 118.195 (Netherlands), 118.196 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), 118.197 (Maldives) 118.198 (Denmark), 118.199 (Slovenia), 118.200 (Botswana), 118.201 (Ecuador); & 119.4 (State of Palestine).