



**United Nations Human Rights Council
38th Regular Session | 2 July 2018**

Statement delivered on behalf of Defence for Children International - Palestine (DCIP)

Palestinian children killed by Israeli forces with live ammunition and crowd control weapons

Defence for Children International welcomes the opportunity to speak in this session.

Between January 2013 and June 2018, Israeli forces and settlers killed at least 649 Palestinian children in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip, according to documentation collected by Defence for Children International – Palestine (DCIP).

While the majority of these deaths occurred during the summer 2014 Israeli military offensive on Gaza, known as Operation Protective Edge, Israeli forces killed at least 106 Palestinian children outside of this military assault across the Occupied Palestinian Territory with live ammunition or crowd control weapons.

Analysing these specific incidents shows Israeli forces increasingly targeted Palestinian children with live ammunition to quash protests beginning in 2014.

In subsequent years, the increasing use of live ammunition combined with complete lack of accountability has created a situation where Palestinian children are routinely shot and killed with impunity in circumstances that do not justify the use of intentional lethal force.

In the first six months of 2018, Israeli forces killed at least 21 Palestinian children with live ammunition or crowd control weapons in the West Bank and Gaza, including 16 Palestinian children killed between March 30 and June 18 along the Gaza perimeter fence during the “March of Return” protests.

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

- Condemn Israeli forces’ use of excessive force against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip;
- Urge Israel to provide access to all United Nations human rights mechanisms and special procedures to enable impartial monitoring and advance accountability, including the independent International Commission of Inquiry to investigate all violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, including recent killings of Palestinian protesters in the context of recent protests in Gaza, established at the 28th Special Session of the Council in May 2018; and
- Take urgent action to end of all forms of collective punishment caused by the ongoing blockade on Gaza since 2007, which significantly affects the human rights of the civilian population, including children.