



**United Nations Human Rights Council
39th Regular Session | September 24, 2018**

Statement delivered on behalf of Defence for Children International - Palestine

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.

So far in 2018, Israeli forces and settlers have killed at least 41 Palestinian children in the West Bank and Gaza, including 28 children killed between March 30 and September 15 along the Gaza perimeter fence during the “March of Return” protests.

DCI-Palestine documentation and analysis show Israeli forces increasingly targeted Palestinian children with intentional lethal force to quash protests starting in early 2014.

Of the Palestinian children killed by Israeli forces and settlers in 2018, at least 34 children sustained fatal wounds from live ammunition or crowd control weapons.

The increasing use of live ammunition combined with near complete lack of accountability has created a situation where Palestinian children are routinely shot and killed with impunity in circumstances that suggest unlawful and wilful killings.

DCI asks the members of the Commission to focus significant effort on identifying individuals and units responsible for unlawful killings, and to suggest specific measures toward accountability.

DCI urges all members of the Human Rights Council to:

- Take concrete measures to ensure the safety, protection and well-being of the Palestinian civilian population under Israeli occupation, including supporting international protection mechanisms;
- Urge Israel to provide the Commission of Inquiry on the 2018 protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) established at the 28th special session of the Council in May with immediate access to the OPT;
- Support fully the Commission of Inquiry mandate to investigate all alleged international violations, specifically those amounting to war crimes, and to identify individuals responsible as well as specific measures towards accountability; and
- Take urgent action to end all forms of collective punishment caused by the ongoing blockade on Gaza since 2007.

Thank you.