

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

**Israeli armed forces must be included on child rights blacklist for killing and maiming
Palestinian children in 2018**

In 2018, Israeli forces killed 56 Palestinian children in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, a pace exceeding one child per week. In the half of 2019, Israeli forces have killed an additional 16 children, according to documentation collected by Defense for Children International – Palestine (DCIP).

The majority of these killings occurred in the context of “March of Return” protests along the Gaza perimeter fence.

The United Nations Independent Commission of Inquiry on the 2018 protests in the OPT found “Israeli security forces used lethal force against children who did not pose an imminent threat of death or serious injury to its soldiers,” and the Commission found “reasonable grounds to believe that Israeli snipers shot them intentionally, knowing that they were children.”

Although Israeli authorities have selectively opened their own investigations into several incidents occurring since 30 March 2018, previous experience shows that Israeli authorities persistently failed to impartially investigate alleged violations in accordance with international standards.

Killing and maiming children is clearly defined by the UN Security Council as one of the so-called six grave violations by parties to conflict. Noting the clear criteria for listing armed forces and groups in the annex of the Secretary-General’s annual report, we believe these unlawful killings constitute a clear obligation to include Israel’s armed forces in the annex.

In an effort to challenge systemic and seemingly perpetual impunity and increase protections for children, Defence for Children International strongly urges all UN member states to:

- Demand Israeli armed forces are included in the annex of the Secretary-General’s annual children and armed conflict report covering 2018 violations;
- Take urgent action to ensure accountability for violations by supporting efforts by the International Criminal Court to hold perpetrators accountable and by carrying out obligations under the Geneva Conventions or the Rome Statute to exercise criminal jurisdiction and arrest persons alleged to have committed, or who ordered to have committed, the international crimes described in the Commission’s report; and
- Employ every means to prevent further use of intentional lethal force against civilians at demonstrations, including by ensuring protective monitoring of the demonstrations through the deployment of U.N.-mandated armed forces or unarmed observers.