



24th February 2021

Interactive Dialogue with the High Commissioner on the Occupied Palestinian Territories

On behalf of Defence for Children International (DCI) - Palestine

Madam President/Mr. Vice-President,

In December, Defense for Children International – Palestine (DCIP) released “Isolated and Alone,” an evidence-based report detailing the experience and rights violations against Palestinian child detainees held in isolation by Israeli authorities solely for interrogation purposes between January 2016 and December 2019.

The report examines and assesses patterns of arrest, detention conditions, and interrogation practices by Israeli authorities. DCIP found that the physical and social isolation of Palestinian children for interrogation purposes by Israeli authorities is a practice that constitutes solitary confinement, amounting to torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment under international law norms.

On January 25, an Israeli military court judge approved an administrative detention order against 17-year-old Amal Nakhleh who suffers from myasthenia gravis, a rare chronic autoimmune, neuromuscular disease that causes muscle weakness.

Administrative detention is permitted in strictly limited circumstances in only the most exceptional cases for “imperative reasons of security” when there is no other alternative. UN bodies, including the Committee against Torture, the Human Rights Committee, and the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention have expressed concern and called on Israel to refrain from using the procedure.

Custodial pre-trial detention is the norm for Palestinian children detained by Israeli forces from the occupied West Bank even while facing an unprecedented global health pandemic. Palestinian children imprisoned by Israeli authorities live in close proximity to each other, often in compromised sanitary conditions, with limited access to resources to maintain minimum hygiene routines, according to documentation collected by DCIP.

In late December, DCIP documented a third Palestinian child prisoner to test positive for COVID-19 since the pandemic’s onset. The 14-year-old was detained for 16 days, before Israeli authorities released him on January 12.



DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL
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THE WORLDWIDE MOVEMENT FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS



**Defense for Children
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Exposing grave violations against children and holding their abusers accountable.

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We strongly urge all member states to:

- Demand that Israeli authorities immediately end detention and prosecution of Palestinian children in the Israeli military court system;
- Demand that Israeli authorities immediately release Amal Nakhleh and end the practice of detaining children under administrative detention orders; and
- Call for the release of all Palestinian children currently detained in Israeli prisons and detention centers.