

## Briefing Report for MPs on Palestinian Child Prisoners



Prepared by London Palestine Solidarity Campaign Branches October 2017

### Executive Summary

- J Israel persistently breaches international law and human rights norms in its treatment of Palestinians.
- J Israel's rules and practice in relation to Palestinian children in military detention entail serious breaches of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the UN Convention against Torture and the Geneva Fourth Convention.
- J These breaches have been documented by a number of NGOs including UNICEF, Human Rights Watch, Defence of Children International, Military Court Watch, and B' Tselem. In addition, the breaches have been carefully documented by a UK FCO Funded delegation who reported in 2012.
- J It is time for the UK Government to act-including through international bodies-to require Israel to fully and immediately comply with international law and internationally recognised judicial norms in relation to Palestinian children in Israeli military detention.

UNICEF in 2013 concluded that ***'Ill-treatment of Palestinian children in the Israeli military detention system appears to be widespread, systematic and institutionalized. This conclusion is based on the repeated allegations about such treatment over the past 10 years and the volume, consistency and persistence of these allegations.'***

***'The test of a democracy is how you treat people incarcerated, people in jail, and especially so with minors.'*** Mark Regev (now Israel's Ambassador to the UK) in the Guardian Newspaper 22 January 2012

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## Some Context

1. Palestinian children have long been subjected to the effects of Israel’s longstanding and illegal occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory.
2. In Gaza today, every 8 year old child has lived through 3 major Israeli attacks- the last of which (Operation Protective Edge in 2014) killed 495 Palestinian children. The survivors face psychological trauma, an unending siege, abject poverty and little prospect of a better future.
3. In the West Bank and East Jerusalem, children live with the fear of house evictions, bulldozers, arrest and imprisonment, as well as increasing levels of violence from both Israeli Forces and illegal settlers. The 2015 case of the burning alive of 18 months’ old Ali Dawabsha and his parents, leaving his 4-year-old brother Ahmad barely alive with severe burns, being one example.<sup>1</sup>

## Palestinian Children In Israeli Military Detention

1. Whilst the killing of Palestinian children by Israel often gets reported, the serious plight of Palestinian children in Israeli military detention rarely receives media spotlight.
2. Each year approximately 700 Palestinian children aged 12 to 17 are arrested, interrogated and detained by Israeli army, police and security agents, an average of two children each day. Defence for Children International estimate that 20% of all Palestinians detained are children.<sup>2</sup>
3. Palestinian Information Centre reported that in November 2015, in the space of just one month nearly 800 Palestinian children had been detained in some manner and the number of children in Israeli prisons rose to nearly 340, of which 116 are 15 years old or under.<sup>3</sup>
4. By April 2016 this figure had again risen to over 400 imprisoned children, the highest figures since Israeli authorities began releasing data. Since then, the number of imprisoned children has consistently remained at over 300 at any one time.<sup>4</sup> The situation has worsened since then.
5. 2016 saw Israel reach grim new milestones in the treatment of Palestinian children, with the highest levels of incarcerations of children between 12 and 15 (and under 18) on

<sup>1</sup> 31 July 2015, The Independent, ‘Palestinian toddler burnt alive after masked ‘Jewish extremists’ target home in arson attack’.

<sup>2</sup> Military Detention, Defence for Children Palestine.

<sup>3</sup> Page 2, Number CDP 2015/0135, 4 January 2016 (House of Commons Debate Pack)

<sup>4</sup> Statistics - Palestinian security prisoners in Israeli detention, Military Court Watch

record.<sup>5</sup> This includes the youngest female detainee recorded sentenced to 5 months' imprisonment at just 12 years old.<sup>6</sup>

6. Palestinian families fear their children coming into contact with the Israeli military judicial system and the systematic humiliation, abuse and prolonged detention that this entails.
7. It is important to note that Israel remains the only country in the world which routinely tries children within the military justice system.<sup>7</sup>

### Alleged Stone Throwing- The Most Frequent Reason For Arrest

1. Most Palestinian children prosecuted by Israeli the military courts are charged with throwing stones under section 212 of Military Order 1651. (This and other military orders do NOT apply to illegal Jewish Settlers.)
2. The offence of stone throwing carries a penalty of up to 10 years' imprisonment, rising to 20 years under certain circumstances. A child aged under 13 years old can receive a maximum sentence of six months, but a child aged 14 or over could see their sentences upgraded to a maximum penalty of 20 years.<sup>8</sup>
3. Israeli politicians, judges and prosecutors have continually argued how dangerous stone-throwing by Palestinian children can be and the injuries that result from such actions. The UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office funded delegation reported in 2012 on the issue of children in Israeli military custody. The report observes -without denying throwing stones can be dangerous - that evidence of actual damage or injuries is exceedingly rare and does not justify the extremely harsh penalties imposed by Israeli law.<sup>9</sup>
4. Up until the date of the 2012 report, there had been only a single incident resulting in death and an unverified photograph provided of a man with facial injuries allegedly resulting from a stone-throwing incident with no further evidence provided. The statistics also cited six cases where varying degrees of damage to vehicles occurred and in these cases no injuries had been sustained. An investigation carried out by No Legal Frontiers reported that in 89 reviewed cases of stone-throwing, physical injury was caused in one case and damage to a vehicle was caused in three cases.<sup>10</sup>

### Israel's Discriminatory Regime In The West Bank

1. In the West Bank, Israeli authorities apply systematic discrimination based on ethnicity: Palestinians are subject to military law; Jewish settlers are subject to Israel's civilian code. (The US State Department noted in March 2014 that Israeli authorities operated under military and civilian legal codes in the occupied territories. Israeli military law applied to Palestinians in the West Bank, while Israeli settlers were under the jurisdiction of Israeli civil law. The report further noted there are significant differences in the rights and protections provided under these two systems of law.<sup>11</sup>)
2. There are substantial differences between the actual experiences of arrested Palestinian children compared to those (very few) Israeli children arrested in illegal settlements.

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<sup>5</sup> Statistics - Palestinian security prisoners in Israeli detention, Military Court Watch

<sup>6</sup> 3 March 2016, B'Tselem, '12 year old sentenced to 4 and a half months'

<sup>7</sup> Page1, 5<sup>th</sup> Para of Executive Summary Children in Israeli Military Detention, UNICEF, February 2013.

<sup>8</sup> Pages 8 &9, Children in Israeli Military Detention, UNICEF, February 2013.

<sup>9</sup> Paragraph 46 Children in Military Custody, Delegation funded by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (June 2012)

<sup>10</sup>Paragraph 46, Children in Military Custody

<sup>11</sup> Arrest Procedures and Treatment of Detainees, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Israel and the Occupied Territories, March 2014, US State Department

3. Defence for Children International reports that every year hundreds, if not thousands, of Palestinian children come into contact with the military justice system. No Israeli child does.
4. The practical effect of such a distinction means, in addition to the abuses detailed elsewhere, the legal system itself is discriminatory:<sup>12</sup>
  - ) The minimum age for a custodial sentence for an Israeli child is 14 years old, for a Palestinian child it is 12.
  - ) Except in exceptional circumstances, Israeli children have the right to have their parents present during questioning, Palestinian children do not.
  - ) A Palestinian child can be held for 90 days without access to a lawyer, 188 days without charge and up to 2 years waiting for the conclusion of the trial. For an Israeli child the periods are 2 days, 40 days and 6 months respectively.

### Israel's Has Refused To Apply The Protections To Palestinian Children Required By International Law

1. Israel's refusal to apply the UN Convention on the Rights of a Child was reported in the UK FCO funded Delegation's report of 2012:  
 "In our meetings with the various Israeli Government agencies, we found the universal stance by contrast was that the Convention has no application beyond Israel's own borders. We respectfully disagree. In our judgment it is factually and legally unreal to suggest that children who are arrested by the Israeli Defence Force, interrogated by either the Israeli police or the Israeli Security Agency, held in Israeli prisons and judged by Israeli military courts, are not within the jurisdiction of the State of Israel".<sup>13</sup>
2. The UK FCO funded Delegation also observed "The occurrence of hostilities or physical conflict in the Occupied Palestinian Territories does not alter or dilute Israel's consequent obligations".<sup>14</sup> This view accords with the International Court of Justice, which has opined that in times of war, human rights obligations are not suspended.<sup>15</sup>
3. The British delegation report goes on to state, "A major cause of future unrest may well be the resentment of continuing injustice. We hope that the Israeli Government will recognise this, and will recognise too that justice is not a negotiable commodity but a fundamental human right which can itself do much to defuse anger".<sup>16</sup>  
 "Such a stance seems to us to be the starting point of a spiral of injustice, and one which only Israel, as the Occupying Power in the West Bank, can reverse".<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Page 61, Bound Blindfolded and Convicted: Children held in military detention. Defence for Children International, June 2012. Also, Paragraph 19, Children in Military Detention.

<sup>13</sup> Paragraph 30, Children in Military Custody

<sup>14</sup> Paragraph 33, Children in Military Custody

<sup>15</sup> Paragraph 10, Page 136, Advisory Opinion on the Legal Consequences of Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

<sup>16</sup> Paragraph 114, Children in Military Custody

<sup>17</sup> Paragraph 115, Children in Military Custody

## The Realities For Palestinian Children From Arrest To Imprisonment

**“Israeli security services continued to abuse, and in some cases torture, minors who they frequently arrested on suspicion of stone throwing to coerce confessions. Tactics included beatings, long-term handcuffing, threats, intimidation, and solitary confinement.”<sup>18</sup> US State Department**

1. Children as young as 10 are often arrested in their homes in the middle of the night by heavily armed soldiers. They are woken up to the frightening sounds of soldiers banging on the door and shouting instructions for the family to leave the house.
2. What follows is a chaotic scene with broken furniture, shouting and verbal threats. The family is forced to assemble outside in their nightclothes while the child is forcibly removed from the home and taken away.
3. In most cases, neither the child nor the family are informed of where the child is being taken, why they are being taken or for how long.
4. The child is hand-tied, blindfolded and led to a military vehicle for transfer to an interrogation site or transit illegal settlement.
5. In most cases the child is not allowed to change into more appropriate clothing or to say goodbye to his/her family.
6. During the transfer, many of the children are subjected to serious ill-treatment. This can take the form of verbal abuse and often physical abuse, including being painfully tied and being forced to lie on the floor of the vehicle.
7. During long duration transfers, child prisoners are often denied food, water and toilet facilities. During stops at intermediate centres or settlements, they often face further abuse and exposure to the elements.
8. When the child is brought before a medical doctor, their hands remain tied and a rudimentary questionnaire is completed lasting no longer than 10 minutes. A physical examination rarely takes place, even where there are obvious marks of physical mistreatment or a child has reported to the doctor that they have been physically assaulted. There is little evidence that medical staff provide any assistance in any form.
9. The child is brought to the interrogation centre blindfolded, hands tied, often having been physically assaulted, sleep deprived and in a state of extreme fear. Many of the children are then subjected to further abuse and humiliation with strip searches carried out routinely and without cause.
10. Few children are granted access to a lawyer or allowed a family member present during interrogation. Interrogations are very rarely recorded, and no independent oversight is allowed. Proper oversight would undoubtedly limit the use of coercion and ill-treatment of children as an interrogation technique.
11. The interrogations typically involve intimidation, physical violence and threats (including threats against other family members) with the purpose of forcing the child to confess. Threats have included threats of lengthy detention, physical violence, solitary confinement, death and sexual assault against themselves or a family member.
12. The child is kept restrained throughout the interview, including being handcuffed to the chair. Over extended periods this causes significant pain to the hands, back and neck of the child.

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<sup>18</sup> 5.1(iii) Recent Reports – US State Department, Children in Israeli Military Detention Progress Report, Military Court Watch, April 2015

13. Under these circumstances, by the end of the interrogation most children will confess, often after being told that confessing is the only way to avoid the military detention system.
14. The interrogator orders the child to sign the confession form, without proper understanding of the contents of the form and without either a lawyer or family member present. In many cases the form is written in Hebrew, a language that most Palestinian children do not understand.
15. The child is then held for between 2 days and a month before the court hearing, Palestinian children are very rarely granted bail. Many of these children are held in solitary confinement, causing insomnia, confusion, hallucinations and psychological harm.
16. The child is brought before the court in leg chains and shackles and wearing a prison uniform. For most children, this will be the first time they have spoken to their lawyer.
17. The principal evidence presented before the court is usually the child's own confession extracted during the interrogation. Although many children are mistreated during interrogation, few bring this up at court for fear of prolonging their sentence further. Almost all children plead guilty as it is the quickest way to be released and shorten the time spent in detention.
18. The conviction rate in Israeli military courts of Palestinian children exceeds 99% (US State Department, 2014).
19. In 2009, 83% children were handed a custodial sentence, compared to only 6.5% for Israeli children tried in a civilian court (Defence for Children International, 2009). By 2011 this figure had risen to 98% receiving a custodial sentence, with the remaining 2% receiving suspended sentences (No Legal Frontiers, 2011).
20. Heavy fines are also imposed upon children's families in 90% of cases as further punishment (No Legal Frontiers, 2011). If the family is unable to pay the fine, the child's sentence will be further extended.
21. Post sentencing, most imprisoned Palestinian children are transferred to one of two prisons (Megiddo or Rimonim) inside Israel, in contravention of Article 76 of the Geneva Fourth Convention.
22. During the child's imprisonment in Israel, it is virtually impossible for parents to visit their child due to the serious difficulties in obtaining permission to travel between the West Bank and Israel and the length of time it takes to obtain a permit (up to 2 months).
23. Non-Governmental Organizations have made frequent complaints to the Israeli government about its treatment of Palestinian children. The UK FCO funded delegation was given only one example where a complaint has been upheld since 2008. Due to the nature, extent and similarities of the complaints the delegation was disturbed by the lack of legal recourse. They summed up, "There appears to us to be a significant number of allegations of physical and emotional abuse of child detainees by the military which neither the complaints system nor the justice system is addressing satisfactorily".<sup>19</sup>
24. The whole process from arrest to interrogation, trial and imprisonment entail serious breaches of The UN Convention of the Rights of the Child and the Geneva Fourth Convention<sup>20</sup>.

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<sup>19</sup> Paragraph 106, Children in Military Custody

<sup>20</sup> Children in Israeli Military Detention, UNICEF (February 2013)

25. UNICEF concludes that the ill-treatment of children in the Israeli military detention system is **'widespread, systematic and institutionalised'**. This is based upon the volume, consistency and persistence of allegations spanning the last 10 years.<sup>21</sup>

26. Since UNICEF published the series of 38 requirements in 2013 that Israel needed to meet to adhere to its obligations in protecting Palestinian children, Israel has failed to meet the required standards. Out of those 38 requirements, Israel has substantially implemented only 1 (3%), partially implemented 4 (10%) and not implemented in any meaningful way 33 (87%).<sup>22</sup>

### Palestinian Children In Their Own Words<sup>23</sup>

***I was transferred to a troop carrier and sat on a seat. When the troop carrier started a soldier moved me from the seat and made me sit on the metal floor between the soldiers' legs. The soldier then kicked all over my body the whole way.  
I.B. on 10 February 2015 (Military Court Watch).***

***The interrogator then shouted and threatened to put me in prison for a long time. He turned the tape recorder off each time he shouted. Then he kicked my father out. I was in the room with the interrogator by myself. I was scared and confessed to throwing stones. Then the interrogator brought my father back in and told him I had confessed.  
F.S. on 3 June 2014 (Military Court Watch)***

***A soldier told me to strip to search me. When I refused to take off my underwear he slapped me hard on my face. I then took my underwear off. The next day I was taken to Ofer. I was strip searched again. I was told to crouch up and down while naked.  
N.N. on 24 July 2014 (Military Court Watch)***

***During the interrogation I felt severe pain in my stomach. I asked the interrogator if I could see the doctor but he refused. He told me he wasn't going to take me to the doctor unless I confessed.  
M.Q. on 12 May 2014 (Military Court Watch)***

***When the interrogation was over I was put back in a very small cell measuring 2x1 metres. I was kept in this cell for eight days in solitary confinement. During this time I was interrogated several times.  
M.H. on 9 April 2014 (Military Court Watch)***

***The other interrogator told me if I didn't confess he was going to rape me. He slapped me and told me if I didn't confess he was going to insert a stick in my bottom.  
M.H. on 4 February 2015 (Military Court Watch)***

<sup>21</sup> Page 13, F. Conclusions Children in Israeli Military Detention, UNICEF (February 2013)

<sup>22</sup> UNICEF Recommendations – Progress, Children in Israeli Military Detention Progress Report

<sup>23</sup> Military Court Watch testimonies (children) available at: <https://is.gd/yJmFA3>

## Meaningful And Speedy Action Is Required

As a permanent member of the UN Security Council and one of the High Contracting Parties to The Geneva Convention, Britain's voice carries weight in international bodies on human rights matters.

MPs of all political parties should show the UK Government that there is cross party support for action to be taken on the plight of Palestinian Child Prisoners in Israeli Military Detention. Effective action would bring practical benefit to Palestinian children and their families and would also send a message to all repressive regimes that the UK will not stand silently if the rights of children under international law are infringed.

MPs are therefore respectfully asked both to support the following statement **and to sign** Early Day Motion 563 in Parliament.

### Statement in Support of The Rights of Palestinian Child Prisoners

*We the undersigned, support an end to the mistreatment of Palestinian children in Israeli military detention and for the rights of Palestinian children to be upheld in accordance with international law*

*We call upon the British government to make a public statement that it will take immediate, effective and meaningful action-including through international bodies-to ensure all the following requirements are implemented by the Israeli government without delay:*

- 1. Children must not be prosecuted in military courts that lack basic and fundamental due process guarantees;*
- 2. Detention must only be used as a measure of last resort;*
- 3. Children must not be arrested at night;*
- 4. Children must not be subjected to any form of physical violence;*
- 5. Children must have access to legal representation and parents prior to and during interrogations;*
- 6. All interrogations of children must be audio-visually recorded;*
- 7. Any statement made as a result of torture or ill-treatment must be excluded as evidence in any proceeding; and*
- 8. All credible allegations of torture and ill-treatment must be thoroughly and impartially investigated in accordance with international standards, and perpetrators brought promptly to justice.*

*[Note these requirements are those set out by Defense for Children International Palestine -a national section of Defense for Children International (DCI) - and can be found at [http://www.dci-palestine.org/issues\\_military\\_detention](http://www.dci-palestine.org/issues_military_detention) ]*



## *Appendix: UNICEF - Rights of the Child And Israeli Military Detention*

In accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international norms and standards, the following principles must apply under all circumstances when arresting or detaining children:

- (i) **The best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.** In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social-welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.
- (ii) **Non-discrimination.** States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child shall respect and ensure that the rights set forth in the Convention apply to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his or her parents' race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status.
- (iii) **Use of detention only as a measure of last resort.** Children should only be deprived of their liberty as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time.
- (iv) **Alternatives to detention.** Alternatives to detaining children should always be considered and encouraged, at both the pre-trial and post-sentencing stages of any judicial or military detention system.
- (v) **Children in conflict with the law should be channelled away from judicial proceedings** through the development and implementation of procedures or programmes that enable many – possibly most – to avoid the potential negative effects of formal judicial proceedings, provided that human rights and legal safeguards are fully respected.

### 2. Notification

- (i) All children shall be informed of the reasons for their arrest at the time of arrest and in a language they understand.
- (ii) The competent military authority shall, on its own initiative, notify the legal guardian or close family member of the child about the arrest, reasons for arrest and place of detention, as soon as possible after the arrest, and in Arabic. A legal guardian must be authorized to accompany the child during transfer and stay with the child at all times during interrogation.
- (iii) All children and their legal guardian or close family member should be provided with a written statement in Arabic informing them of their full legal rights while in custody.

### 3. Timing of Arrests and Arrest Warrants

- (i) All arrests of children should be conducted during daylight, notwithstanding exceptional and grave situations.
- (ii) Copies of all relevant documentation, including arrest warrants and summons for questioning, should be provided to the child's legal guardian or close family member at the time of arrest or as soon as possible thereafter, and all documentation should be provided in Arabic.

### 4. Methods and Instruments of Restraint

- (i) Children should only be restrained for the time that is strictly necessary. Use of restraining methods and instruments should respect the child's dignity and not cause unnecessary pain or suffering.
- (ii) The use of single plastic hand ties should be prohibited in all circumstances, and the prohibition must be effectively monitored and enforced.
- (iii) At all times during transfer, children should be properly seated, not blindfolded and treated with dignity.
- (iv) Except in extreme and unusual circumstances, children should never be restrained during interrogation, while detained in a cell or while attending court.
- (v) The practice of blindfolding or hooding children should be prohibited in all circumstances.

## 5. Strip Searches

Strip searches should be carried out only under exceptional circumstances and used only as a last resort. When conducted, strip searches should be done with full respect for the dignity of the child and be conducted by more than one person of the same gender as the child, in the presence of a parent, guardian or other responsible adult, wherever possible. The strip search should be done in a private location and should not involve the removal of all garments at the same time.

## 6. Access to a Lawyer

All children in detention shall have prompt and regular access to an independent lawyer of their choice.

## 7. Judicial Review of the Arrest and Detention

- (i) All children in detention shall, within 24 hours of their arrest, have prompt and effective access to an independent judicial review of the legality of their arrest and detention.
- (ii) The military courts should review every child's detention at least every two weeks, to ensure that detention is used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest time possible; that the child is not being subjected to any form of ill treatment; and that the child is being granted
- (iii) access to relatives, a lawyer and a medical doctor.

## 8. Medical Examinations

- (i) Both prior to and after questioning, as well as upon transfer to another place of detention, the detained child should undergo a medical inspection by an independently qualified medical doctor.<sup>56</sup> The medical inspection should abide by the highest standards of medical ethics, document objectively any complaints and findings, and assess the child's physical and psychological state. Any immediate medical needs should be attended to.
- (ii) Subject to the consent of the child's legal guardian, all medical records should be made available to the child's lawyer.
- (iii) Children deprived of their liberty shall have access to prompt and adequate medical care at all times.

## 9. Questioning or Interrogation

- (i) The questioning or interrogation of a child should always take place in the presence of a lawyer and a family member, and should always be audio-visually recorded for the purpose of independent oversight.
- (ii) At the commencement of each interrogation session, the child should be formally notified of his or her rights in Arabic, and in particular, informed of the privilege against self-incrimination.
- (iii) Each interrogation session should begin with the identification of all persons present. The identity of all persons' present should be included in the record and available to the child's lawyer.

## 10. Solitary Confinement

In no circumstances whatsoever should a child be held in solitary confinement.

## 11. Confessional Evidence

- (i) No statement or confession made by a child deprived of his or her liberty, other than one made in the presence of a judge or the child's lawyer, should have probative value at any stage of the criminal proceedings, except as evidence against those who are accused of having obtained the confession by unlawful means. Cases involving children in military courts should not be determined solely on the basis of confessions from children.
- (ii) All confessions written in Hebrew and signed or adopted by a Palestinian child should be rejected as evidence by the military courts.

## 12. Bail and Plea Bargains

- (i) Incarceration of children should always be a measure of last resort and for the shortest possible time. Except in extreme circumstances, release on bail should be the standard procedure.
- (ii) The conditions under which bail and plea bargains are granted should be revised to make them consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

## 13. Location of Detention and Access to Relatives

- (i) In accordance with international law, all Palestinian children detained in the Israeli military detention system shall be held in facilities located in the occupied Palestinian territory.
- (ii) Wherever a child is detained, the right of family members to visit should be fully respected. All necessary measures should be taken to ensure that the administrative procedures in support of family visits, including all necessary permits, are promptly facilitated no later than 14 days after arrest.
- (iii) All children should be entitled to regular telephone communication with their families in order to maintain close social relations.

## 14. Accountability

- (i) Any complaint by a child, at any stage of his or her detention, regarding any form of violence and unlawful treatment, shall be promptly, diligently and independently investigated in accordance with international standards. All perpetrators shall be brought promptly to justice.
- (ii) Unless the allegations are manifestly unfounded, the personnel allegedly involved in the unlawful treatment of children should be suspended from duties involving contact with children, pending the outcome of an independent investigation and any subsequent legal or disciplinary proceedings.
- (iii) In addition to efficient and effective complaint mechanisms, Israeli military authorities should take all necessary measures to establish effective and independent internal oversight mechanisms to monitor the behaviour of all personnel in contact with children in Israeli military detention.
- (iv) Child victims of ill-treatment should obtain redress and adequate reparation, including rehabilitation, compensation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition.
- (v) The Israeli authorities should give immediate consideration to establishing an independent investigation into the reports of ill-treatment of children in the military detention system, in accordance with the 2002 recommendations made by the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights on Palestinian

## *Key Reports*

- ] Children in Israeli Military Detention, UNICEF (February 2013)
- ] Children in Israeli Military Detention, UNICEF (February 2015)
- ] Children in Israeli Military Detention Progress Report, Military Court Watch (April 2015)
- ] Children in Military Custody, Delegation funded by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (June 2012)
- ] Child Prisoners and Detainees in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, House of Commons (January 2016)
- ] Bound Blindfolded and Convicted: Children held in military detention. Defence for Children International (June 2012)
- ] Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, Israel and the Occupied Territories. US State Department (by year).
- ] Military Court Watch testimonies (children) available at: <https://is.gd/yJmFA3>

## **Testimonies Of Palestinian Children**

***I was transferred to a troop carrier and sat on a seat. When the troop carrier started a soldier moved me from the seat and made me sit on the metal floor between the soldiers' legs. The soldier then kicked all over my body the whole way.***

I.B. on 10 February 2015 (Military Court Watch).

***The interrogator then shouted and threatened to put me in prison for a long time. He turned the tape recorder off each time he shouted. Then he kicked my father out. I was in the room with the interrogator by myself. I was scared and confessed to throwing stones. Then the interrogator brought my father back in and told him I had confessed.***

F.S. on 3 June 2014 (Military Court Watch)

***A soldier told me to strip to search me. When I refused to take off my underwear he slapped me hard on my face. I then took my underwear off. The next day I was taken to Ofer. I was strip searched again. I was told to crouch up and down while naked.***

N.N. on 24 July 2014 (Military Court Watch)



***During the interrogation I felt severe pain in my stomach. I asked the interrogator if I could see the doctor but he refused. He told me he wasn't going to take me to the doctor unless I confessed.***

M.Q. on 12 May 2014 (Military Court Watch)

***When the interrogation was over I was put back in a very small cell measuring 2x1 metres. I was kept in this cell for eight days in solitary confinement. During this time I was interrogated several times.***

M.H. on 9 April 2014 (Military Court Watch)

***The other interrogator told me if I didn't confess he was going to rape me. He slapped me and told me if I didn't confess he was going to insert a stick in my bottom.***

M.H. on 4 February 2015 (Military Court Watch)

For more information or help on the issues covered in this report please e-mail:  
londonchildprisonerscampaign@gmail.com