



In March

- 29 Palestinian children were killed by the Israeli military
 - 6 of them were, or appeared to be, involved in hostilities
- 1 child was killed in Gaza through misuse of weapons
- 324 Palestinian children were held in Israeli detention facilities
 - 3 were girls
 - 13 were held without charge or trial in administrative detention

90 DAYS

The period of time a Palestinian detainee, including a child, can be denied access to a lawyer and held in *incommunicado* detention

Upcoming events

17 April: Palestinian Prisoners Day

15 May: Nakba Day

Profile: Child Detainee Report

To mark the occasion of Palestinian Prisoner's Day on 17 April, DCI/PS will be launching its report on Palestinian Child Prisoners held in Israeli detention. The report focuses on 2007 figures and trends, and will be available both online and in hard copy from 17 April 2008.

In 2007, some **700** Palestinian children (under 18) were arrested by Israeli soldiers in the West Bank. Of these, around **30** children were held in administrative detention – imprisonment without charge or trial. As in previous years the overwhelming majority of those arrested were boys (98.9%). Of the three girls imprisoned during the course of the year, one was subsequently released in February 2008, but another girl was arrested in the same month. Therefore, the number of girls currently detained by Israel remains three.

At any given point during 2007, there were 310-416 Palestinian children held in Israeli prisons and detention centres in Israel and the occupied Palestinian Territory. These figures are similar to those for 2006 (340-420). As of 31 March, there were **324** Palestinian children held in Israeli prisons and detention/interrogation centres, and **13** held under administrative detention orders (10 more than at the end of February).

The number of children arrested in 2007 and the first three months of 2008, brings the total number of Palestinian children arrested by Israeli forces since the beginning of the second *Intifada* (September 2000) to over **6,000**.

Palestinian child prisoners routinely face violations of their human rights during arrest, interrogation and imprisonment. They are exposed to physical and psychological abuse, amounting to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, and sometimes torture. The vast majority of them are denied prompt access to a lawyer and often denied contact with their families and the outside world.

Children in detention routinely face substandard, often inhumane conditions of detention and are frequently denied access to adequate medical care and suitable education services.

Recommendations

1. Israel should immediately raise the age of adulthood contained in the Military Courts from 16 to 18, as is the case under Israeli domestic legislation.
2. Israel should immediately ensure its compliance with the *UN Convention against Torture* and thoroughly investigate all allegations of abuse of Palestinian detainees and bring those responsible for such abuse to justice.

Addameer, DCI/PS and Health Work Committees will hold a press conference in Ramallah for Palestinian Prisoners Day.



Advocacy news

- From 9-16 March, DCI/PS carried out an advocacy mission to Brussels, in order to encourage EU actors to implement the EU Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict in Palestine. DCI/PS is also currently supporting EU diplomatic missions in Palestine to submit their first report to the EU on the impact of the conflict on Palestinian children.
- On 14 March, the High Commissioner for Human Rights published her report on Human rights violations emanating from Israeli military attacks and incursions in the oPt, particularly Gaza (see DCI/PS website).
- On 26 March, the Human Rights Council approved Richard Falk (US) as the new Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory.