



Palestinian Children Violence and Fatalities

Operation Protective Edge (Israel's 2014 onslaught on the Gaza Strip) killed 547 Palestinian children, 535 of them as a direct result of Israeli attacks. Another 3,374 children suffered injuries in attacks, including over 1,000 children whose wounds rendered them permanently disabled. Since 2000, over 1,800 children have been killed across the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Children in Detention

Defence for Children International (international NGO) report that each year approximately 500-700 Palestinian children, some as young as 12 years, are detained and prosecuted in the Israeli military court system. These military prisons have poor conditions including overcrowding, inadequate food, solitary confinement and violence from prison guards towards imprisoned children. The majority of Palestinian child detainees are charged with throwing stones, and three out of four experience physical violence during arrest, transfer or interrogation. No Israeli child comes into contact with the military court system. International Law demands that justice systems protect children from violence and should not focus on punishment. Israeli treatment of children in detention falls far short of this standard. Since the end of 2015, Israel has returned to a policy of using administrative detention to imprison minors, that is, detention without charge or trial.

Access to Education

Large numbers of children across Palestine face major difficulties in accessing education as a direct result of Israeli occupation policies including harassment from soldiers, checkpoints, settler attacks, closed military zones, and violent clashes including attacks on schools by the Israeli military. Education is a basic right and a necessity to build a better society, but remains elusive for many Palestinian children.

Living under occupation and living under attack

Palestinian children grow up exposed to violence from an early age and many suffer from emotional and psychological distress, including experiencing recurrent nightmares and bedwetting. In 2015, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported over 77 percent of students in Hebron showed symptoms of moderate to severe post-traumatic stress disorder.

Israel's obligations

Israel ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 3 October 1991 and has also ratified both of the Optional Protocols – on 'children in armed conflict' in 2005 and on 'sexual exploitation of children' in 2008. Furthermore the 4th Geneva Convention requires that occupying powers administer occupied territory for the benefit of the local population. Israeli policies towards Palestinian children are in serious and persistent breach of its obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and as an Occupying Power.

Palestinian Children: Ireland should seek to ensure that Israel honour its obligations as a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.