

Factsheet  
World Children's Day  
20 November 2020

**Overview:**

For over 53 years, Israel, the occupying power, has been committing serious violations and grave breaches of international humanitarian and human rights laws, embodied in the policies and practices employed against the Palestinian people. Throughout the duration of this ongoing belligerent occupation, Palestinian children have been the target of Israel's illegal policies and practices, which have affected the lives and wellbeing of generations of Palestinians, including the devastation of countless precious lives. Despite the international instruments that afford protective measures for children.

On the **World Children's Day**, below are few of the crimes committed against Palestinian children, the most vulnerable segment of the society, by the Israeli occupation, its occupying forces, and settler militias.

**Displacement:**

- According to OCHA, since 2009, over 7112 Palestinian structures were demolished in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, forcibly displacing over 11000 Palestinians including 5660 children;
- On 3 November 2020, Israel, the occupying power, invaded the Bedouin Palestinian village of Khirbat al-Humsa, in the Jordan Valley of the occupied West Bank, and demolished it, displacing eleven families of around 80 persons, including 41 children, and left them without a shelter. This is the largest demolition operation since a decade.



**Killing and maiming:**

- According to the 2019 report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict, 32 Palestinian children were killed and 1539 Palestinian children were injured by Israeli occupation forces and settler militias;
- Since the beginning of 2020, 6 Palestinian children were unlawfully killed, according to the DCI.

**Attacks on schools and students:**

- The 2019 report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict referred to 4 incidents of the military use of Palestinian schools by Israeli forces and 15 incidents of threats against teachers or students;
- Six schools in Gaza were damaged during ground attacks and air strikes by Israeli forces;
- 242 incidents of interference with education by Israeli forces and settler militias were documented in 2019, and another 15 attacks on schools affecting over 48,000 Palestinian children.



**Detention and ill-treatment:**

- Palestinian children remain a main target for Israeli occupation forces and victim of its military detentions. Israel, the occupying power, subjects Palestinian children, some under 12 years of age, to arbitrary detention, interrogation, ill-treatment, torture, and solitary confinement;

• There are currently 170 children held in military detention centers, away from their families, two of them held in administrative detention, and 3 of them are in solitary confinements.

**International Responsibility:**

- In commemorating the 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the State of Palestine once again reaffirms that serious efforts must be made by the international community to oblige Israel, the occupying power, to comply with international law and act humanely towards Palestinian children.
- The State of Palestine urges the international community to provide protection for Palestinian children, hold Israel accountable for its unabated crimes, and correct the mistake of exempting Israel from the list of parties that commit grave violations affecting children in situations of armed conflict. Palestinian children, like all children, deserve to live in a world in which they can grow, play, learn and thrive in freedom, dignity, peace and security.

## **World Children's Day**

### **General Information:**

- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted on 20 November 1989.
- It is the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history.
- The Convention aims to promote international togetherness and awareness among children worldwide, and improve children's welfare.
- Palestine acceded to the Convention on 1 April 2014.

### **General Talking Points:**

- The State of Palestine reiterates its commitment to protect and respect the fundamental rights of its people, especially children, who have endured the worst forms of injustice at the hands of the illegal Israeli occupation.
- Israel, the occupying power, continues to systematically and deliberately target Palestinian children, dehumanize them, disrupt their lives, and condemn them to a future of perpetual conflict and oppression.
- Palestinian children continue to suffer immensely as Israel, the occupying power, entrenches its occupation and its unlawful punitive measures and actions against the Palestinian people.

### **Displacement:**

- According to OCHA, since 2009, Israel demolished over 7112 Palestinian structures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, forcibly displacing over 11000 Palestinians, including 5660 children.
- The policy of home demolition is part and parcel of the Israeli policy of displacing and replacing the Palestinian people, which serves the ultimate goal of annexing Palestinian land that is cleansed of its indigenous Palestinian population.



- On 3 November 2020, Israel, the occupying power, invaded the Bedouin Palestinian village of Khirbet al-Humsa in the Jordan Valley and demolished more than 70 homes and other structures. This record-breaking mass demolition displaced 11 families of around 80 persons, including 41 children, and left them without a shelter. This is the largest demolition since a decade.

#### **Killing and maiming:**

- The “Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory(2019)” found reasonable grounds that Israeli snipers shot Palestinian children intentionally during the protests in Gaza, despite the fact that they were explicitly recognizable as such the moment they were shot.
- According to the 2019 report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict, 32 Palestinian children were killed and 1539 Palestinian children were injured by Israeli occupation forces and settler militias.
- Since the beginning of 2020, 6 Palestinian children were unlawfully killed, according to the DCI.

#### **Attacks on education:**

- The 2019 report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict referred to 4 incidents of the military use of Palestinian schools by Israeli forces and 15 incidents of threats against teachers or students;
- Six schools in Gaza were damaged during ground attacks and air strikes by Israeli forces;
- 242 incidents of interference with education by Israeli forces and settler militias were documented in 2019, and another 15 attacks on schools affected over 48,000 Palestinian children.

#### **Detention and ill-treatment:**

- Palestinian children remain a main target for Israeli occupation forces and victims of its policy of arbitrary mass incarceration.

- Israel, the occupying power, subjects Palestinian children, some under 12 years of age, to arbitrary detention, interrogation, ill-treatment, torture, and solitary confinement.
- Currently, 170 children are detained in military detention centers, including two under in administrative detention and 3 in solitary confinement.
- So far in 2020, Israeli occupation forces detained 400 Palestinian children.
- In the latest report of the special Representative of the Secretary General (SG) on children and armed conflict, the SG reiterated his call upon Israel, the occupying power, to cease the use of administrative detention against Palestinian children, end all forms of ill-treatment in detention, as well as cease any attempted recruitment of detained children as informants. Israel has not been responsive.
- In April 2020, the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Michael Lynk, called for the release of the most vulnerable detainees, including children, women, older persons and those with pre-existing conditions. Israel did not heed this and other similar calls.

#### **Access to health care:**

- According to the most recent report by Special Rapporteur on human rights in Palestine, Michael Lynk, Palestinian children's access to healthcare continues to be severely affected by the intricate system of movement restrictions in the case of West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the 14-year blockade of Gaza. According to Lynk, this results in serious challenges in access to health care facilities and specialized medical treatment for children.
- In Gaza, children continue to face denial or delay in access to healthcare facilities or specialized treatment outside of the Strip because of the Israeli siege.

#### **International Responsibility:**

- Violations of the basic rights of children are abhorrent. States have a moral and legal obligation to combat such violations and ensure protection to children.
- Serious efforts must be made by the international community to oblige Israel, the occupying power, to comply with international law and act humanely towards Palestinian children.

- Accountability is central to protecting children in Palestine and around the world. Israel must be held accountable for its violations and compelled to end them.
- Palestine needs support to ensure that the mistake of exempting Israel from the list of parties that commit grave violations affecting children in situations of armed conflict is correcting. Israel belongs on that list and exempting it from this shame encourages impunity and ensures the continuation of grave violations of Palestinian children's rights.
- States that tie bilateral relations and cooperation to human rights records must hold Israel to that standard. Agreements on military, economic, and other forms of cooperation must be tied to whether Israel adheres to its obligations under international law, especially towards children.