

# Children

BRIEFING CARD

- **2.3 million** Palestinian children suffer every day under Israel's illegal occupation and apartheid regime
- **800,000** children in Gaza have only ever known life under Israeli siege
- **1165+** Palestinian children killed by Israeli forces in Gaza since 2006
- **4000+** students and teachers harmed in attacks on educational structures in the West Bank and Gaza between 2015 and 2019
- **88%** of children in one area of Hebron have to pass through a military checkpoint to get to school
- **2 out of 3** schools in Gaza operate on double or triple shifts
- **300+** school facilities in Gaza damaged by Israeli bombardment in May 2021
- **500+** Palestinian children prosecuted each year through Israeli military courts
- **75%** of Palestinian children in Israeli prisons are physically beaten

Israeli settlers and Israeli Occupation Forces frequently **attack Palestinian children**.

Journeys **to and from school** are fraught with danger. Children must find alternative routes to school or be accompanied by their parents or international observers.

At night Israeli Occupation Forces storm into family homes without warning, violently pulling children from their beds and photographing them for 'intelligence mapping'. These **terrifying night raids** occur regularly.

- Palestinian children endure **physical and emotional violence** from Israeli Occupation Forces and Israeli settlers.
- Access to **education** and **healthcare** is limited for Palestinian children and they face **injustice** in Israeli courts.
- Israel has been stealing Palestinian childhood since 1948.

Israel repeatedly targets and kills Palestinian children. Using lethal force is a violation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

## Palestinian children killed by Israel in Gaza:

Jun-Sep 2006: **58**  
Nov 2006: **85**  
Feb-Mar 2008: **33**  
Dec 2008 to Jan 2009: **353**  
Nov 2012: **33**  
Jul to Aug 2014: **535**  
May 2021: **60**  
Aug 2022: **8**  
**Total: 1165**

## Denying Palestinian children their rights

Palestinian children are denied their **right to education** and **healthcare access**.



[DCI-Palestine] [AFP/Hazem Bader]

In the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem, education is restricted by **checkpoints** and the **Wall**. This means that short journeys to and from school can take hours.

## Israel's (in)justice system

Israeli Occupation Forces **intimidate and arrest** students and teachers. They have carried out **raids and attacks on school buildings** with tear gas and stun grenades.

In Gaza repeated Israeli bombardments have **significantly reduced the number of school facilities**.

Between 2015 and 2019 more Palestinian students and teachers were harmed in attacks on education than **anywhere else in the world**.

When Palestinian children are ill, they **cannot get the medical help they need**.

Permits to leave Gaza for medical treatment are difficult to obtain. In 2022 Israel **rejected a third of permits for children to leave Gaza for medical help**. When children are granted permits to leave, they often have to travel without their parents.

As a result of repeated Israeli bombardments there is a rapidly deteriorating **mental health crisis** among Palestinian children in Gaza:

- **40%** of children suffer from mood disorders
- **90%+** of children suffer from PTSD



[DCI-Palestine] [Musa Al Shaer]

In the West Bank, Palestinian children are treated very differently to Israeli children. Israel operates **two separate legal systems**: one for Palestinians and one for Israeli settlers. Palestinian children are the **only children in the world prosecuted through military courts**, whereas Israeli children live under civilian and criminal law.

Israeli prison conditions for Palestinian children are **inhumane**. 75% of Palestinian children in Israeli prisons are physically beaten and more than half are threatened with harm to their families.

Israeli authorities routinely detain Palestinian children in **isolation** solely for interrogation purposes, which amounts to torture.

Between January 1st 2014 and December 31st 2021, Defence for Children International Palestine documented **182 Palestinian children** were kept in **solitary confinement** for two or more days during interrogation.

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- 3) "‘Treated Like Animals’ – Palestinian Children Suffer Inhumane Treatment In Israeli-Run Prisons", Press Release, Save the Children, October 2020, <https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/news/media-centre/press-releases/-treated-like-animals---palestinian-children-suffer-inhumane-tr>
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