

Since 2007, a UNICEF-led working group has consolidated efforts to report on the impact of armed conflict on children in Israel and the State of Palestine. The bulletin is published on a quarterly basis highlighting trends and patterns in grave violations against children.

Members of the working group include: B'Tselem, DCI-Palestine, OCHA, OHCHR, Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, Terre Des Homme – Suisse, Save the Children, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNRWA, UNMAS, War Child Holland, WHO and World Vision.

This edition covers July, August and September 2016.

Update as of September 2017: The Principals of Working Group member organizations met in August 2017 and reaffirmed their commitment to continue to generate accurate and reliable data on the situation of children affected by the conflict in Israel and the State of Palestine and to put this data in the public domain for advocacy purposes and to improve the situation of children. They will continue to work to improve the content and format of the CAAC bulletins and implement specific actions to that end. They also agreed to move forward with a similar but distinct 'bulletin approach' on other non-conflict related child rights issues of concern in an effort to ensure a more comprehensive approach to the child rights agenda. They reaffirmed the need for engagement with all concerned parties. UNICEF, as the chair of the Working Group, is also in the process of reaching out to other human rights organizations who may be able to provide additional data on grave child rights violations and, where relevant, will propose their inclusion in the Working Group.

MAJOR TRENDS & VIOLATIONS

A total of 744 incidents were reported in the third quarter of 2016, affecting 3,284 children. The situation in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, remained tense and involved multiple clashes between Israeli security forces (ISF) and Palestinians. The number of incidents involving children in which Israeli forces were reported to have used live ammunition increased more than twofold, rising from 15 incidents documented in the second quarter of 2016 to 34 incidents documented in the third quarter. The number of children killed also increased from four in the second quarter (three Palestinian boys and one Israeli girl) to six in the third quarter (all were Palestinian boys). Another 190 children were injured, including 12 Palestinian girls and 175 Palestinian boys and one (1) Israeli girl and two (2) Israeli boys. The levels of violence nevertheless remained significantly lower than they had been in the last quarter of 2015 and in the first quarter of 2016.

Available data suggests that the number of children held in detention remained high and included cases of administrative detention.

KILLINGS AND INJURIES OF CHILDREN

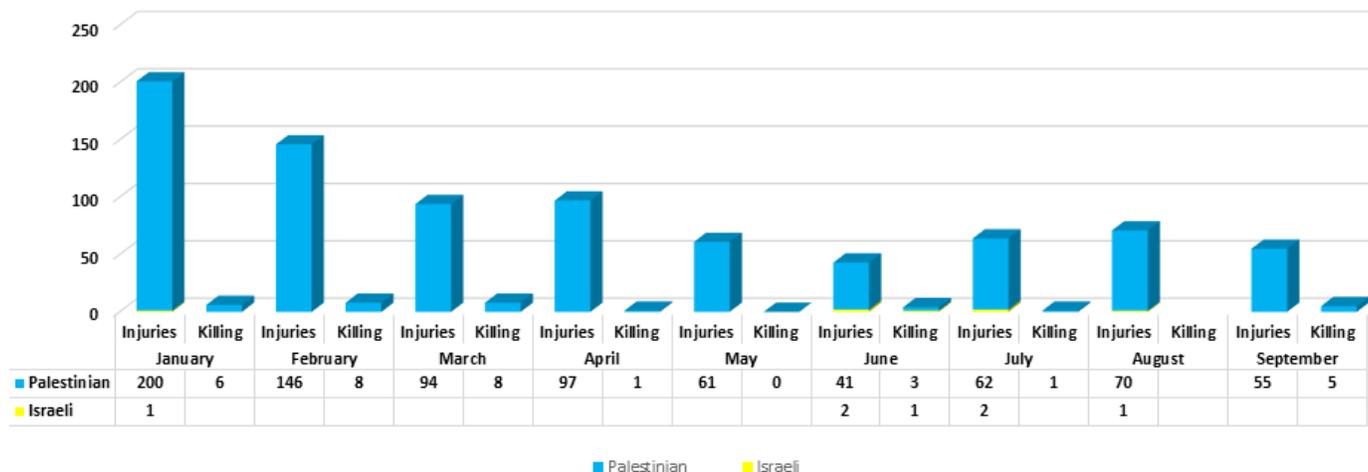
During the second quarter of 2016, **six Palestinian boys were killed**, of whom four were from Hebron, one was from East Jerusalem and one was from Gaza. **No Israeli children were killed**. This marks an increase compared to the second quarter when four children were killed, including three Palestinian boys and one Israeli girl. The number is still significantly lower than in the first quarter of the year, when 22 children (all of whom were Palestinian) were killed.

Between July and September, **187 Palestinian children were injured**. This represents a slight increase from the number of Palestinian children who were reported to have been injured in the second quarter (181), but remains significantly lower than the number recorded in the first quarter (440). Most incidents occurred in the **West Bank, including East Jerusalem**. All but 14 children were injured during clashes between Palestinians and Israeli security forces (ISF), or during Israeli

military operations. 11 children were injured by ISF during settler-related incidents and three (3) were injured during stabbing or alleged stabbing attacks.

One Israeli girl and two Israeli boys were injured during the reporting period, as compared to two boys injured in the second quarter.

January - September 2016: # of Child Killing and Injuries



Source CAAC database

WEST BANK

Palestinian children killed

In the third quarter of 2016, **five Palestinian boys, aged between 10 and 17, were killed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem**. Four of these children were killed in the **Hebron governorate by live ammunition fired by ISF**. In two instances, the children killed were alleged to have carried out stabbing attacks. The other child died as a result of critical injuries suffered when the ISF shot him in the chest with a black sponge-tipped bullet¹ in the Jerusalem governorate. Based on monitoring by the United Nations, there are concerns about possible unlawful use of force in at least three of the six incidents in which children were killed.

In two of the incidents which occurred in the Hebron governorate, eyewitness reports indicate that the children did not appear to present an imminent threat when they were shot:

- An eyewitness to the killing of a 15 year old boy in Bani Na'im on 20 September told the United Nations that the ISF soldiers continued shooting at the boy when he had fallen to the ground after initial gunshots struck his legs.
- In the case of a child shot dead near Beit Ummar on 20 October, eyewitnesses stated that the boy was shot whilst fleeing after reportedly throwing stones at an Israeli army vehicle.

¹ These are 40mm projectiles deployed by a weapon called the Model 4557 Sponge Baton. The manufacturer, Combined Systems Inc., cautions that "shots to the head, neck, thorax, heart, or spine can result in fatal or serious injury". ISF use of this weapon has reportedly resulted in many serious injuries including loss of eyesight. Many of the reported victims were children.

Concerns were raised about the use of black sponge-tipped bullets, which led to the death of a 10 year-old boy in Al-Ram on 19 July when clashes erupted in this area of the Jerusalem governorate. In addition to concerns that the munitions may have been used in violation of international standards concerning the use of force and firearms in law enforcement, there are also grounds for concern that they may have been used in violation of Israeli police regulations which stipulate that black sponge-tipped bullets should not be deployed against children and should not be aimed towards the upper part of the body.² The boy was shot in the chest by a black sponge bullet from a distance of about 25-30 metres.

Palestinian children injured

In the **West Bank, including East Jerusalem, 185 Palestinian children** (173 boys and 12 girls), aged **between 9 months and 17 years, were injured** (175 boys and 13 girls).

- 66 children (64 boys and 2 girls) were injured during **clashes between Palestinians and ISF, in the context of demonstrations and protests**. Of these 66 injuries, 3 children were injured by live ammunition, 20 children were hit by rubber-coated metal bullets and 43 children suffered from tear gas inhalation requiring medical attention.
- 105 children (98 boys and 7 girls) **were injured by the ISF during security operations**, such as search and arrest operations and ensuing clashes between Palestinians and the ISF, including in and around refugee camps. During these operations, children were injured by **live ammunition** (26), **rubber-coated metal bullets** (25), **tear gas inhalation** (46), **shrapnel of live ammunition** (2), and **physical assault** (6). The highest proportion of injured children (43 per cent) were children residing in **refugee camps**.³
- There was a **marked increase in the use of live ammunition by ISF in the third quarter of 2016** with 34 incidents of children injured, compared to 15 in the second quarter, resulting in **severe injuries and long term disabilities**. The use of live ammunition during security operations has increased from 14 per cent of child injuries in the second quarter (7 of 51) to 25 per cent (26 of 105). Three children (2 boys and one girl) were injured by live ammunition during stabbing or alleged stabbing incidents.
- Eleven Palestinian children (10 boys and one girl) were **injured by ISF in the context of violence involving Israeli settlers**. One boy was injured by live ammunition; one boy was injured by rubber-coated metal bullets; two boys were physically assaulted; and seven children suffered tear gas inhalation requiring medical attention.

Israeli children killed and injured

Three Israeli children (two boys and one girl) **were injured in the West Bank**.

- On 23 August 2016, a **17-year-old Israeli boy was injured by a stone thrown towards the bus he was travelling in**, as part of a group of sixty Israeli members of the Breslov Hasidic group who **sought to enter Joseph's Tomb in Nablus without coordination or authorization from ISF**.
- On 1 July 2016, **two Israeli children, a girl aged 14 and her brother aged 15, were injured after Palestinian gunmen opened fire with live ammunition at the car they were traveling in on route 60 near Kyriat Arba Settlement outside Hebron**. The gunfire, which wounded both children and their mother, killed the children's father who was driving the vehicle causing it to overturn.

² Israel Police Regulations, "Professional Directive – Operation of 40 mm Foam Rifle".

³ 45 children were injured in Ayda camp (20), Fawwar camp (10), Aduhaisheh camp (7), Al Am'ari camp (5), Jenin camp (2) and Jalazoun camp (1).

GAZA STRIP

In Gaza, **one 16-year old Palestinian boy was killed and two children aged 14 and 17 years were injured.**

- On 9 September 2016, during a demonstration to show solidarity with Palestinians in the West Bank, **a 16-year-old Palestinian boy was killed while throwing stones at soldiers stationed at the fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel. The child died when he was struck in the face by a tear gas canister.** Concerns were raised that **a soldier fired a tear gas canister directly at the child, which is a violation of international standards on the use of force as well as ISF rules of engagement.**
- On 19 August 2016, **one Palestinian boy aged 17 was injured by live ammunition fired by ISF in a demonstration** held east of Al Bureij Camp, in solidarity with Palestinians in the West Bank.
- On 21 August, **one 14-year-old boy was injured by missile shrapnel when ISF fired two missiles at an unused water reservoir** north-west of Beit Hanoun. This attack was one of a series for air strikes that were reportedly conducted by the ISF on the day following a rocket attack from Gaza that struck an empty yard in the Israeli city Sderot.

RECRUITMENT AND USE OF CHILDREN

In Gaza no cases were documented of the recruitment of children for use in armed conflict. However in the current security context it is not possible to ascertain the scale and extent of the situation given the security risks related to collecting comprehensive and detailed information.

ARREST AND DETENTION OF CHILDREN

According to the monthly head count of children in Israeli military detention by the Israeli Prison Services (IPS):

In July, **343 Palestinian children aged between 12 and 17 years, were held in military detention facilities** (332 boys; 11 girls). Of these, eight (8) boys were held in administrative detention, 211 children were being held prior to sentencing, and 124 were serving sentence. 73 of the detained children were below the age of 16.

In August, **319 children were detained** (308 boys; 11 girls). Of these, 10 boys were held in administrative detention, 184 children were held prior to sentencing and 125 were serving a sentence. **Two (2) of the children detained were below the age of 14 and another 70 were below the age of 16.**

IPS data for September was not available at the time of writing, however, partners of the United Nations documented **seven children in administrative detention** as of the end of September.

In East Jerusalem, 142 cases of arrest or detention of children on security-related grounds were documented, including at least nine children below the age of 12 (age of criminal responsibility). This marks a decrease in the total number of child arrests compared to the second quarter (210 cases).

Palestinian Children in Israeli detention facilities (source: IPS)

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2010	314	338	337	328	300	287	281	280	264	251	226	210
2011	221	216	224	217	211	207	201	176	162	150	159	132
2012	166	183	203	218	231	220	210	194	189	164	177	193
2013	219	234	236	236	223	193	195	180	179	159	173	154
2014	183	210	202	196	215	202	192	201	182	163	156	151
2015	163	182	182	164	163	160	153	156	171	307	407	422
2016	406	438	444	414	NA	NA	343	319	NA			

ILL-TREATMENT OF CHILDREN IN DETENTION

In relation to cases of military detention, the Working Group on Grave Violations against Children (WGGV) gathered 29 individual affidavits of Palestinian children (28 boys and one girl) aged between 12 and 17 years. They reported that they had been subjected to **ill-treatment by the ISF, Israeli police, the Israeli Security Agency (ISA) and/or the IPS** while in Israeli military detention in the West Bank, excluding East Jerusalem.

Of the 29 cases, **26 children reported being subjected to at least ten different types of ill-treatment**, including but not limited to painful hand-ties, blindfolding, strip-searching, leg-ties, verbal abuse and physical violence. In addition, **28 children reported breaches of due process**, noting that they were not notified of their rights and/or that a lawyer or parent was not present during interrogation.

EDUCATION-RELATED VIOLATIONS

Between July and September 2016, **nine incidents of attacks on schools and one incident of attacks on students were documented in the West Bank**. No incidents were reported in the Gaza Strip or Israel. It should be noted that schools were closed for holidays in July and August.

Attacks & threats of attacks on schools or protected persons

Nine incidents of attacks against schools were documented, affecting 1,064 children (802 boys and 262 girls). In eight cases (seven in **Hebron governorate** and one in Nablus governorate), ISF fired tear gas canisters in (two incidents) and around (six incidents) schools during day time, resulting in tear gas inhalation by students and interruption and cancellation of the school routine. In another incident, **settlers attacked a school in Nablus** at night, throwing stones, mud and glass bottles, causing damage to the school property. The attack took place on 31 August the night before the first day of school. The school was empty at the time.

Two incidents of attacks against protected persons in relation to education were documented in the West Bank. On 29 August, **ISF chased and physically assaulted some students and detained four students from Urif Secondary School for Boys on their way home**. Three were detained for one and a half hours, while the fourth student was detained for a brief period.

Denial of access to education

Thirteen (13) incidents affecting access to education were documented in the reporting period, affecting 629 children. All of the incidents took place in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in the governorates of Hebron (7), Bethlehem (3), Jerusalem (2), and Jenin (1).

- Three incidents involved the **loss of school time as a result of soldiers standing in front of the school or entering it**, soldiers **blocking entrance** at the gate, soldiers **stopping students** and/or teachers at a checkpoint near a school, and due to **area closures**.
- Eight incidents involved the **detention of students and teachers**.
- In another instance, a school in Hebron (Zeid Secondary schools for girls in Yatta) has been subjected to a **demolition order** from the Israeli Civil Administration.
- On 27 September, the **ISF dismantled and confiscated a caravan classroom at Abu Nuwar School**, affecting 10 students in a very poor Bedouin community in the 'E1' area of the West Bank.

DENIAL OF HUMANITARIAN ACCESS FOR CHILDREN

Access to health

GAZA STRIP

Children from the Gaza Strip continue to face delays in accessing specialized medical care they require outside of Gaza. Causes include the **Israeli authorities' denial of permits for accompanying adult relatives to cross the Erez terminal**, and the **ongoing restriction of access through the Rafah terminal imposed by the Egyptian authorities** since 2013.

- **Erez:** From July to September, the Israeli District Liaison Office approved without delay 1,551 (621 girl; and 930 boys - 74 per cent) of 2,085 applications for children to cross the Erez checkpoint for medical treatment outside of Gaza. Twenty-five per cent (512; 199 girls and 313 boys) of applications were delayed and one per cent (22; 5 girls and 17 boys) were denied. Since November 2015, the Israeli authorities have expanded security interviews to patients' companions up to age 55 (instead of 35), which affects the issue of permits for parents and grandparents of sick children. On 10 August, a 43-year old man who was accompanying his 10-year-old daughter for treatment was arrested by ISF at Erez crossing and held for six days. An alternate companion had to be sought delaying treatment to the child.
- **Rafah:** Between July and September, the Egyptian side of the Rafah border with Gaza was opened only for three days in July, allowing 79 patients to cross to Egypt for health care, two days in August and four days in September allowing 150 patients to travel for health reasons to Egypt. Before the July 2013 closure, more than 4,000 Gaza residents crossed Rafah monthly for medical assistance.

Demolition and Confiscation of Humanitarian Aid⁴

WEST BANK

Humanitarian actors have faced significant constraints when trying to access and provide emergency assistance to displaced families and communities in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. **In the third quarter of 2016, 59 structures (13 residential structures and 46 other structures) provided by aid organizations were demolished by the Israeli authorities.** This marks an increase compared to 47 demolished structures in the second quarter.

Extremely vulnerable Bedouin communities living in Area C, which is under Israeli administrative and security control, were disproportionately affected. **Many of these structures were provided as an**

⁴ This includes demolition of donor-funded structures provided for humanitarian relief

emergency response to earlier demolitions, and these demolitions exacerbated the conditions of these already vulnerable communities even further.

This practice is in contravention of Article 59 of the Fourth Geneva Convention which requires Israel as the occupying power to facilitate relief schemes on behalf of the population of the occupied territory and deprives the affected children of the right to an adequate standard of living pursuant to Article 27 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

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