

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 October, November and December 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

The situation in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip remained tense in the fourth quarter of 2016. A total of 1,305 incidents were documented in the reporting period, affecting 10,831 children. This marks a sharp increase from the preceding quarter when 746 incidents affecting 3,291 children were reported. This is mainly due to a significant rise in the number of children affected by education-related incidents following the restart of the school year: 8,993 children compared to 1,693 in the third quarter, with 103 education-related incidents registered in the last quarter of 2016, compared to 25 in the third quarter.

The number of children killed as well as the number of those injured in the reporting period were both lower than they had been in each of the preceding quarters in 2016. During the fourth quarter, four Palestinian boys were killed, and 81 Palestinian children were injured (5 girls and 76 boys); no Israeli children were killed and four Israeli children (4 boys) were injured. During the third quarter, six Palestinian boys had been killed and 190 children (187 Palestinian and 3 Israeli) injured.

Additionally, one health related incident was documented in the West Bank. Nine-hundred and eighteen (918) cases of denial and delayed access to health were documented in the Gaza Strip following the application of stricter criteria by Israeli authorities, compared to five-hundred and thirty four (534) cases in the third quarter. Restrictions of access imposed by the Egyptian authorities remain ongoing.

Available data indicates that the number of Palestinian children held in detention on security grounds remained high and continued to include cases of administrative detention.

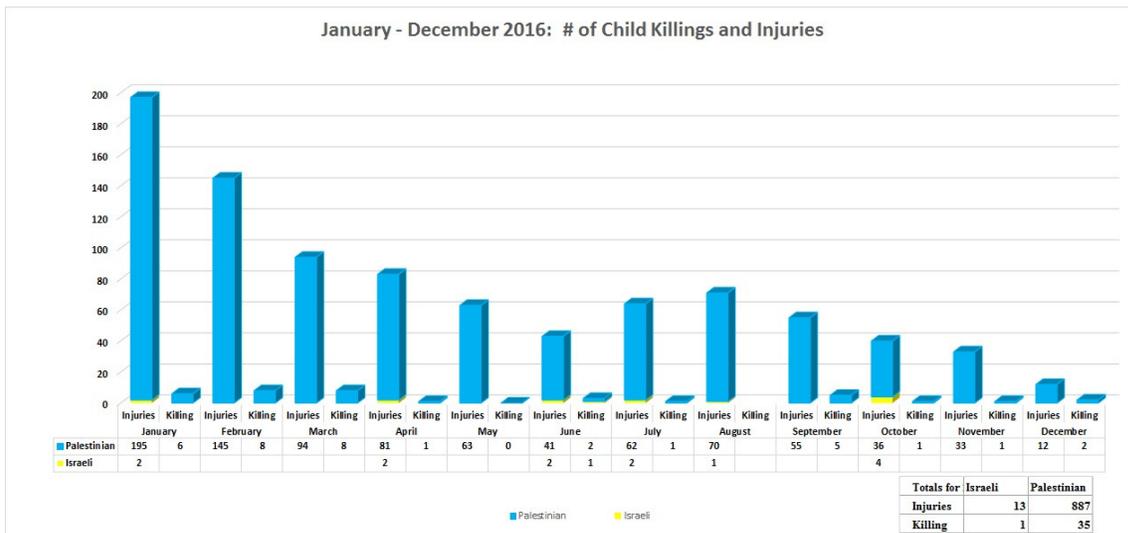
KILLINGS AND INJURIES OF CHILDREN

During the fourth quarter of 2016, four Palestinian boys aged between 14 and 17 years, were killed. One was killed in Hebron, another was killed in Jerusalem and the remaining two were killed in Ramallah. No Israeli children were killed. The number of children killed in the quarter is lower than the number of those killed during a wave of violence which started in October 2015 and that persisted in the first quarter of the year, during which 22 children (all of whom were Palestinian) were killed.

Between October and December, 81 Palestinian children aged between 2-months and 17 years, were injured compared to 187 children in the third quarter. This represents the lowest number of injuries recorded in a quarter in 2016.

Most incidents occurred in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. All except six children were injured during clashes between Palestinians and Israeli Security Forces (ISF), or during Israeli military operations. Five children were injured in clashes with Israeli settlers in the West Bank and one was injured while tampering with an Explosive Remnant of War (ERW).

Four Israeli boys aged between 5 and 14 years, were injured, in the West Bank during the reporting period when Palestinians threw stones at vehicles in which they were traveling.



Source: CAAC database

WEST BANK

Palestinian children killed

In the fourth quarter of 2016, four Palestinian boys, aged between 14 and 17, were killed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, following the use of live ammunition by the ISF.

- On 15 October, a 15-year-old boy succumbed to critical injuries sustained when ISF shot him in the head during clashes that erupted between Palestinians and Israeli forces in Al Jalazun refugee camp (Ramallah governorate).

- On 20 October, a 15-year old boy was shot and killed by the ISF in Beit Umar (Hebron governorate). According to Israeli sources, he was shot as he threw stones during clashes between ISF and Palestinians.
- On 25 November, a 14-year old boy was shot dead in Shufat (Jerusalem governorate) as he allegedly tried to stab an ISF soldier.
- On 18 December, a 17-year old boy, was killed in clashes during an ISF raid into the village of Beit Rima (Ramallah governorate).

Palestinian children injured

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, 79 Palestinian children (74 boys and 5 girls), aged between two months and 17 years, were injured during the reporting period.

- 21 Palestinian boys were injured during clashes between Palestinians and ISF, in the context of demonstrations and protests. Of these, three (3) children were injured by live ammunition, seven (7) children were hit by rubber-coated metal bullets, eight (8) children suffered from severe tear gas inhalation requiring medical attention, one (1) child was physically assaulted, (1) one was injured by shrapnel from a sound grenade and another one (1) was hit by a tear gas canister.
- 53 children (48 boys and 5 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 (6), rubber-coated metal bullets (22), severe tear gas inhalation (17), tear gas canisters (4), shrapnel from a sound grenade (1), and physical assault (2). In addition, one girl suffered severe tear gas inhalation during a search operation.
- Five (5) Palestinian boys were injured in the context of violence involving Israeli settlers. Three (3) of these boys were injured by ISF (one boy by a rubber-coated metal bullet, and another two boys were physically assaulted), and two (2) boys were physically assaulted by settlers (a six-year old boy while playing in front of his house in Jerusalem governorate, and a 13-year old boy while going to school in Hebron governorate).

Israeli children killed and injured

No Israeli children were killed in the West Bank in the reporting period.

Four Israeli boys were injured in the West Bank when Palestinians threw stones at vehicles in which they were traveling:

- On 4 October, an Israeli boy was injured as a result of stones thrown on a car in which he was traveling near the settlement of Kiryat Arba in Hebron governorate.
- On 18 October, two (2) Israeli boys aged 9 and 14 years were injured by stones thrown at their car in At-Tor neighbourhood of East Jerusalem.
- On 3 October, a five year-old Israeli boy was injured from shattered glass caused by stones thrown at a car in which he was traveling near the village of Tuqu' east of Gush Etzion settlement.

GAZA STRIP

In Gaza, two Palestinian boys aged 15 and 16 years were injured during the reporting period.

- On 7 November, a 16-year-old boy was injured when Israeli patrol boats opened fire towards Palestinian boats west of Al-Shati camp, western Gaza City, forcing them ashore and spraying the Palestinian boats with high-pressure water from a cannon mounted on the bow of the patrol boats. The high-pressure water sprayed by the Israeli navy knocked the boy to the floor of his boat, and he was subsequently

rendered unconscious after being hit in the chest by the water cannon. The boy was admitted to Al Shifa Hospital for medical treatment.

- On 3 November, a 15-year-old boy was severely injured by a piece of an explosive remnant of war (ERW), which he found a day before in an open area between Rafah and Khan Younis. The item, which the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) later identified as a detonator, exploded at the child's school when he and his friends attempted to disassemble it with a stone.

RECRUITMENT AND USE OF CHILDREN

There were no documented cases of recruitment and use of children by the parties during the reporting period. In Gaza, the Working Group was not in a position to document cases of child recruitment and use of children in armed conflict owing to a number of factors, including security and protection risks related to collecting comprehensive and detailed information. The Working Group continues its efforts to document all violations.

ARREST AND DETENTION OF CHILDREN

West Bank

Since April 2016 the Israeli Prison Service (IPS) has ceased to provide data about the number of Palestinian children held in its detention facilities, with the exception of partial data for the months of July and August. At the time of writing, the IPS had not made available data regarding the number of Palestinian children detained in its facilities during the reporting period.

In 2016, the Palestinian District Coordination Office in the West Bank recorded 286 interventions to release Palestinian children detained by the Israeli Security Forces.

East Jerusalem

In East Jerusalem, 220 cases of arrest and detention of children for alleged security-related offences were documented by the CAAC Working Group.¹ This marks an increase in the total number of child arrests compared to the third quarter (142 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	NA	NA	NA

ILL-TREATMENT AND DUE PROCESS VIOLATIONS REGARDING CHILDREN IN DETENTION

In relation to the cases of Palestinian children in detention in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, the CAAC Working Group gathered 25 individual affidavits of Palestinian boys, aged between 13 and 17 years. They

¹ No official Israeli government data is available on the number of Palestinian children arrested in East-Jerusalem.

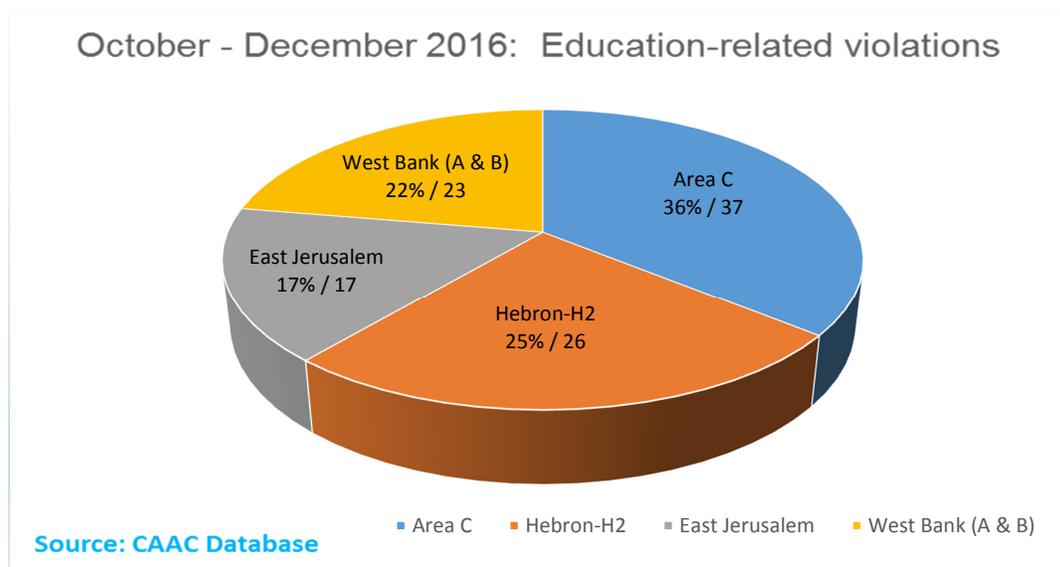
reported ill-treatment and due process violations by the Israeli Defense Forces, the Israeli police, the Israeli Security Agency (ISA) and/or the Israel Prison Service (IPS) during arrest, transfer, interrogation and detention..

Of the 25 cases, 14 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, 19 children reported breaches of due process, stating that they were not adequately notified of their rights and/or that a lawyer or parent were not present during interrogation.

Sixteen Palestinian children reported that they were apprehended from their homes at night and two 17-year-old children reported that they were held in solitary confinement while under interrogation, i.e. held in a cell alone between 7 and 17 days, without daylight, and no access to other detainees, family or lawyer.

Three cases were documented of Palestinian children, aged between 15 and 17 years, from the West Bank being held in administrative detention, i.e. detention on security grounds, without being charged.

EDUCATION-RELATED VIOLATIONS



Between October and December 2016, 103 education-related incidents² affecting 8,992 children were documented. These included attacks on schools, forced closure of schools, delays at check points on the way to and from schools, interruption of classes and, in some instances, injury of children. This marks a sharp increase compared to the previous reporting period when 25 incidents were reported. It coincides with the restart of the school year in September.

The 103 incidents include: 81 interferences with education, 15 attacks on schools, three (3) threats of attacks against protected persons in relation to schools, four (4) attacks on protected persons in relation to schools, All reported incidents occurred in the West Bank including East Jerusalem. No cases were reported in Gaza and Israel.

² Education-related violations are reported here in accordance with UNSCR 1998 and subsequent guidance note (2014) available online here: <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/publications/AttacksonSchoolsHospitals.pdf>

Attacks & threats of attacks on schools and related protected persons

15 incidents of attacks on schools were documented, affecting 2,535 children. In 10 cases, the ISF fired tear gas canisters and sound grenades at or into school premises. In another case, the ISF raided a school in Bethlehem and in four remaining instances, tear gas canisters and sound grenades were fired at students while they were commuting to or from schools. In one of these instances, a student sustained a head injury by shrapnel from live ammunition fired by ISF.

Four incidents of attacks against protected persons in relation to education were documented, all in the Israeli-controlled H2 area of Hebron in the West Bank. In three instances, students were physically assaulted by ISF at checkpoints on their way to school and one of the students sustained a broken arm and suffered bruises all over his body. In the fourth incident, a school principal was physically assaulted by a settler during an olive harvesting activity organized by the school.

Three incidents involving threats of attacks against protected persons in relation to schools were documented, two by ISF and another one by a settler. In one incident, a settler threatened children going to school by pointing a gun at them. In a second incident, the ISF threatened to close a school in Bethlehem governorate. The school secretary spoke with the ISF and reported that he was threatened, and that his mobile phone was confiscated. In a third incident, a female student was threatened by ISF at gunpoint on the street as she was on her way home from school. The ISF ordered her to remove her jacket, searched her belongings and detained her for a short period.

Interferences with education

Eighty-one (81) incidents of interference with education were documented in the last quarter of 2016, affecting 6,253 Palestinian children. Thirty-six (36) incidents involved the loss of school time as a result of ISF standing in front of the school or entering it, blocking entrance at the gate, and stopping students and/or teachers at a checkpoint near a school, and due to area closures. Thirty-four (34) incidents involved the detention of students and teachers. Two incidents of interrupted ISF escorts to children in the Hebron governorate, where the ISF accompanies children to school due to the high risk of settler attacks, were documented.

In two other instances in the Jerusalem governorate, a school received a demolition order, and another received a stop-work order from the Israeli Civil Administration. A further incident took place on 4 October, when the ISF dismantled and confiscated a caravan being used as a classroom by primary school children at Abu Nuwar School, affecting 10 students in a poverty-stricken Bedouin community located east of Jerusalem.

In addition, six incidents of forced entry in schools were also documented in the fourth quarter of 2016, affecting 553 Palestinian children. Two of these incidents were documented in the Nablus governorate. In one incident, the ISF conducted a search operation at a school after raiding a school staff member's house and ordered her to bring the school keys to allow them in. In a second incident, ISF entered the school playground during mid-term exams and also tried to enter school premises through the roof. The other four incidents were documented in the Jerusalem governorate, where the ISF entered three schools, searching for students suspected of having thrown stones.

HEALTH-RELATED INCIDENTS

During the reporting period, one incident of interference with health was documented. On 13 December, ISF confiscated a donor-funded caravan that was to be used as a primary healthcare center in Al Mirkez community of Masafer Yatta, in the Hebron governorate. The caravan was due to operate once a week and provide essential services to two communities, Al Mirkez and Al Halaweh, which comprise 39 households, including 93 children. The designation of Masafer Yatta as a firing zone for Israeli military training ('Firing Zone 918') makes it very

difficult for the 1,300 residents of the 12 very vulnerable herding communities located in the area to access basic services, including healthcare and education.

Palestinian children living in the Gaza Strip continue to face delays in accessing the 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 October to December, the Israeli District Liaison Office approved without delay 1,264 applications, out of 2,182 applications (58 per cent) for children (481 girls and 783 boys) to cross the Erez checkpoint for medical treatment outside of Gaza. This is the lowest percentage captured since the CAAC database started collecting this information (2010), compared to 1,551 out of 2,085 (74 per cent) in the third quarter. In the fourth quarter of 2016, 41 per cent of applications were delayed³ (for 900 children; 366 girls and 534 boys) and one per cent were denied (for 18 children; 3 girls and 15 boys).
- Rafah: Between October and December 2016, the Egyptian side of the Rafah border with Gaza was opened: for 7 days in October, allowing 102 patients to cross to Egypt for health care; for 5 days in November allowing 100 patients; and for 6 days in December, allowing 424 patients to travel for health reasons to Egypt. Prior to the July 2013 closure, approximately 4,000 Gaza residents crossed Rafah monthly for medical assistance.

DENIAL OF HUMANITARIAN ACCESS⁴

Humanitarian actors have continued to face significant constraints when trying to access and provide emergency assistance to displaced families and communities in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. In the fourth quarter of 2016, 63 structures (48 residential structures and 15 other structures) provided by aid organizations were demolished by the Israeli authorities causing the displacement of 129 Palestinian children compared to the previous quarter, when 161 children were displaced. Many of these structures were provided as humanitarian response to earlier demolitions. 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 emergency response to earlier demolitions, and these demolitions exacerbated the conditions of already vulnerable communities.

Contact:

UNICEF State of Palestine: + 972 2 58 40 400

Catherine Weibel - cweibel@unicef.org

Monica Awad - mawad@unicef.org

³ For this purpose, the term “delay” relates to cases in which children who submitted their permit application on time (between 7-10 days prior to their appointment) did not receive an answer to their applications in time for their hospital appointments, and therefore suffered delay in health care.

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