



April 2011

- [Haaretz](#) – Military court judge remands Palestinian teen despite suspicions that soldiers beat him – by Amira Hass.
- [Stolen Children, Stolen Lives](#) – A new film about Palestinian child detainees including interviews with former Israeli army soldiers and ex-child detainees.
- [US State Department's Human Rights Report - 2010](#)

DETENTION FIGURES

220 children detained (↓3%)

37 aged 12-15 (↓18%)

0 girls in detention

0 children in administrative detention



April 2011 - Overview

This month saw a small **decrease** in the number of children prosecuted in the Israeli military courts and imprisoned. The detention figures fell by three percent compared with the previous month. There was also a reduction in the number of young children (12-15 years) being detained.

In early April, the [Council for Arab-British Understanding](#) (CAABU) organised a visit to the region by a delegation of UK parliamentarians. As part of the visit, the delegation spent a morning in Ofer Military Court and witnessed a number of children being led into the court room with their legs in

chains. On their return to the UK, one member of the delegation, Lord Dubs, gave a [speech](#) in the House of Lords regarding the treatment and prosecution of Palestinian children in Israeli military courts.

Also in April, the [National Union of Teachers](#) (NUT), Britain's largest teachers union with over 250,000 members, passed a [motion](#) in support of Palestinian women and child prisoners which condemns their mistreatment, and calls on the NUT's Executive to 'incorporate this cause into the international work of the Union at every opportunity.'

CONTENTS

[12 to 15 year olds](#)

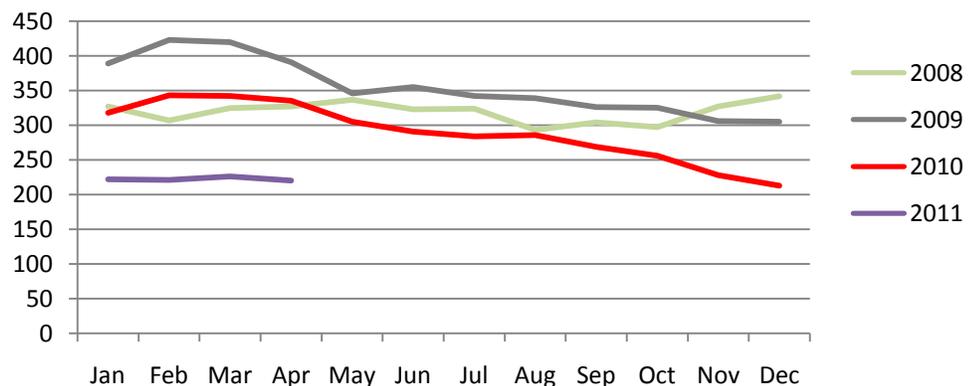
[Girls in detention](#)

[Administrative detention](#)

[Recent case summaries](#)

[Other developments](#)

[Recommendations](#)



Number of Palestinian children in Israeli detention: Jan 2008 – Apr 2011

April 2011 IN FIGURES

Each year approximately 700 Palestinian children, some as young as 12 years, are detained and prosecuted in the Israeli military court system.

The most common charge is for throwing stones. The overwhelming majority of these children are detained inside Israel in contravention of Article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Total

According to the latest figures compiled by DCI-Palestine from sources including the Israeli Prison Service (IPS) and Israeli army temporary detention facilities, there were 220 Palestinian children (12-17 years) in Israeli detention at the end of April 2011. This represents a decrease of six children (3%) from the previous month.

Total number of Palestinian children in Israeli detention at the end of each month since Jan 2008 - Note: These figures are not cumulative

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Aver.
2008	327	307	325	327	337	323	324	293	304	297	327	342	319
2009	389	423	420	391	346	355	342	339	326	325	306	305	355
2010	318	343	342	335	305	291	284	286	269	256	228	213	289
2011	222	221	226	220									222

12-15 year olds

In April there was a decrease in the number of young children (12-15 years) being prosecuted in Israeli military courts and receiving custodial sentences in prisons inside Israel. As at the end of April, there were 37 young children in detention, which represents a decrease of eight children (18%) from the previous month.

Number of young (12-15) Palestinians in Israeli detention at the end of each month since January 2008 - Note: These figures are not cumulative

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Aver.
2008	38	40	45	39	37	34	33	21	23	23	25	30	32
2009	50	54	53	47	39	47	42	39	40	44	41	42	44
2010	44	41	39	32	25	23	18	20	32	34	32	30	31
2011	34	45	45	37									40

Girls in detention

There are currently no Palestinian girls being held in Israeli detention facilities.

Number of Palestinian girls in Israeli detention at the end of each month since January 2008 - Note: These figures are not cumulative

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Aver.
2008	2	3	3	4	3	6	6	5	6	6	5	7	4.7
2009	5	7	6	6	6	5	4	3	3	0	0	0	3.8
2010	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.3
2011	0	0	0	0									0

Administrative detention

There are currently no Palestinian children being held without charge or trial in Israeli administrative detention.

Number of Palestinian children held in Israeli administrative detention at the end of each month since January 2008 - Note: These figures are not cumulative

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Aver.
2008	18	3	13	12	10	13	13	13	11	8	5	6	10
2009	5	6	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1.8
2010	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1.6
2011	0	0	0	0									0

Urgent Appeals

- **UA 4/10** – Children of the Gravel
- **UA 2/11** – Children of Silwan

Voices from the Occupation

- **Voices** – Nadeem and Jihad
- **Voices** – Sexual assault
- **Voices** – 7-year-old summonsed
- **Voices** – Confession in Hebrew
- **Voices** – The cost of settlements
- **Voices** – Prison visits
- **Voices** – House arrest, no school
- **Voices** – Electric shocks
- **Voices** – Electric shocks
- **Voices** – Silwan, East Jerusalem
- **Voices** – Silwan, East Jerusalem
- **Voices** – Silwan, East Jerusalem
- **Voices** – Admin. Detention
- **Voices** – Silwan, East Jerusalem
- **Voices** – Silwan, East Jerusalem
- **Voices** – Taken to a settlement
- **Voices** – Silwan, East Jerusalem
- **Voices** – 9-year-old arrested

Case summaries

Lawyers and fieldworkers for DCI-Palestine collect sworn affidavits from Palestinian children in prison and upon their release. These affidavits are taken in Arabic and further reviewed by trained staff to determine appropriate follow up action. Each year, around 100 of these affidavits are translated into English from which these brief case summaries are produced. Additional case summaries are available upon request.

As'ad M. – (16 years)

On 11 March 2011, a 16-year-old boy from Azzun, is arrested by Israeli soldiers near a road and accused of throwing stones:

Accused of throwing stones near the road - hands tied with one plastic tie behind his back and tightened up - physical assault and verbal abuse - transferred to Ari'el settlement for interrogation - accused of throwing stones and confessed 'because he kept shouting and that made me scared' - tied and transferred to the settlement of Zufin - forced to stand beside a jeep while tied for about an hour - got a headache, felt dizzy and started to vomit - left outside in the cold and rain - later transferred to Huwwara Interrogation and Detention Centre and then Meggido Prison, inside Israel, in violation of Article 76.

Mohammad K. – (15 years)

On 24 April 2011, a 15-year-old boy and his friend from a village near Qalqiliya, in the West Bank, are arrested near the Wall:

At around 9:00 pm, Mohammad and his friend were near the Wall when they were arrested by soldiers and accused of throwing stones and trying to cut a fence - Mohammad reports being hit in the back and pushed during his arrest - the two boys were placed in a jeep and blindfolded - Mohammad's hands were tied behind his back with a pair of shoelaces - the boys were transferred to the settlement of Zufin and Mohammad's hands were retied behind his back using a single plastic tie - Mohammad reports that the ties were very tight causing 'extreme pain' - Mohammad was then taken to a cold room, pushed on the floor and left until 6:00 am - At some point a man entered the room and accused him of throwing stones which he denied - Mohammad reports that the man insulted him and threatened him in the following terms: 'I'll split your ass in half' - Mohammad reports being taken to see a doctor who asked him some questions while he remained tied, but his blindfold was removed - At around 6:00 am Mohammad reports being transferred to Ari'el settlement where he was interrogated for about 90 minutes and he confessed to throwing stones at the Wall - Mohammad was then transferred to Ofer Prison and strip searched, before being detained in Section 11 with adults and children - On 28 April Mohammad reports being taken to Salem Interrogation Centre for further questioning - during this interrogation Mohammad reports being threatened in the following terms: 'I'll smash your head if you don't confess' and 'If you don't confess I'll lock you up with adults who will f**k you' - Mohammad reports that he then also confessed to cutting the fence - Mohammad was then transferred to Meggido Prison inside Israel, in violation of Article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

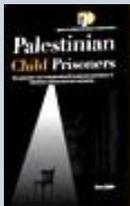
Ahmad K. – (16 years)

On 24 April 2011, a 16-year-old boy and his friend from a village near Qalqiliya, in the West Bank, are arrested near the Wall:

At around 9:00 pm, Ahmad and his friend are arrested by soldiers near the Wall and accused of throwing stones - hit on the back and verbally insulted - 'your mother's a c**t' - one soldier threatened to hit Ahmad - Ahmad's hands were tied with a shoelace and he was blindfolded - transferred to Zufin settlement and his hands were retied behind his back with a single plastic tie - Ahmad reports being placed on the floor of a cold room and was questioned by a man who threatened to 'open your ass in half' if he didn't tell the truth - cursory medical check while tied - transferred to Huwwara Interrogation Centre and accused of throwing stones and cutting the fence - confessed - detained with adults and children - strip searched and denied use of toilet - kicked and face was pushed into a wall - transferred to Meggido Prison inside Israel, in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

- [The Independent](#)
- [Time](#)
- [BBC](#)
- [BBC Radio](#)
- [Haaretz](#)
- [AlJazeera](#)
- [Haaretz](#)
- [Haaretz](#)
- [Haaretz](#)
- [ABC Radio](#)
- [Haaretz](#)
- [Haaretz](#)
- [Haaretz](#)
- [Haaretz](#)
- [Haaretz](#)
- [Haaretz](#)
- [CNN](#)
- [AFP](#)
- [Haaretz](#)
- [Channel 2 \(Israel\)](#)
- [Haaretz](#)
- [Jerusalem Post](#)
- [AFP](#)
- [Haaretz](#)
- [Politics.Co.UK](#)
- [Haaretz](#)
- [MEP](#)
- [UK MP](#)

For further information please read DCI-Palestine's report on Palestinian child prisoners:



Child detention report: *Palestinian Child Prisoners: The systematic and institutionalised ill-treatment and torture of Palestinian children by Israeli authorities*

To subscribe, go to www.dci-pal.org. For further information contact an advocacy officer at ria@dci-pal.org

US State Department releases annual human rights report

On 8 April 2011, the US State Department released its global [annual report on human rights](#), including Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory. In the report, the US State Department notes that:

- Israeli NGOs continued to criticize what they termed abusive Israeli detention practices, including isolation, sleep deprivation, protracted handcuffing, shackling, and psychological abuse, such as threats to interrogate elderly parents or demolish family homes.
- According to Israeli official figures, approximately 5,935 Palestinians were held in Israeli civilian prisons in December. Palestinian minors arrested in the West Bank were subject to the Israeli military courts system, which recognizes persons 16 years of age or older as adults; all minors between the ages of 16 and 18 were held in pre-trial or post-trial detention with adults. Israeli minors between the ages of 16 and 18 arrested in the West Bank were subject to Israeli criminal and civil courts.
- NGO reports claimed that Israeli authorities routinely arrested minors at checkpoints, on the street, at night, and in early morning house raids, and transferred them to one of eight detention facilities for interrogation. In particular B'Tselem reported lack of parental presence at interrogation, as is permitted by law. In most cases authorities reportedly failed to inform parents where their children would be taken. According to DCI-Palestine, authorities also tortured and abused minors to coerce confessions.
- Signed confessions by Palestinian minors, which were written in Hebrew, a language most cannot read, constituted a source of evidence against minors prosecuted in Israeli military courts. Every Palestinian minor prosecuted in Israeli military courts during the year pleaded guilty; lawyers stated they were often reluctant to run full evidentiary hearings for fear the minor would remain longer in detention.

Recommendations

No child should be prosecuted in military courts which lack comprehensive fair trial and juvenile justice standards. DCI-Palestine recommends that as a minimum safeguard in the light of consistent reports of mistreatment and torture, the following:

1. Ensure that no child is interrogated in the absence of a lawyer of their choice and family member;
2. Ensure that all interrogations of children are video recorded;
3. Ensure that all evidence suspected of being obtained through ill-treatment or torture be rejected by the military courts;
4. Ensure that all credible allegations of ill-treatment and torture be thoroughly and impartially investigated and those found responsible for such abuse be brought to justice.