



Za'tara checkpoint. Salfit, West Bank. © DCI

Overview January 2013

FIGURES

- 223** children detained (↑ **14.3%**)
- 132** detained inside Israel (↑ **33%**)
- 31** children aged 12–15 (↑ **34.8%**)
- 1** girl in detention

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Human Rights Watch – HRW releases *2013 World Report* and expresses concern regarding Israeli authorities continued arrest, detention and ill treatment of Palestinian children.

UN Fact-Finding Mission – The UN FFM on Israeli Settlements releases report noting that Palestinian children's rights are violated during arrest, interrogation, detention, trial and sentencing.

This month saw a **14.3 percent increase** in the number of Palestinian children prosecuted in the Israeli military courts and imprisoned.

The number of children aged 12–15 years old **increased 34.8 percent** in January.

A total of **132** (59 percent) children were unlawfully transferred and detained inside Israel. This represents a **33 percent increase** from December 2012.

DCI-Palestine is concerned with the significant increase in the unlawful forcible transfer of Palestinian child detainees from the Occupied Palestinian Territory to detention facilities inside Israel.

In addition to being prohibited by Article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, these unlawful transfers

practically ensure that a child will have little or no contact with family members due to restrictions on travel and difficulty in obtaining a permit to visit detention facilities.

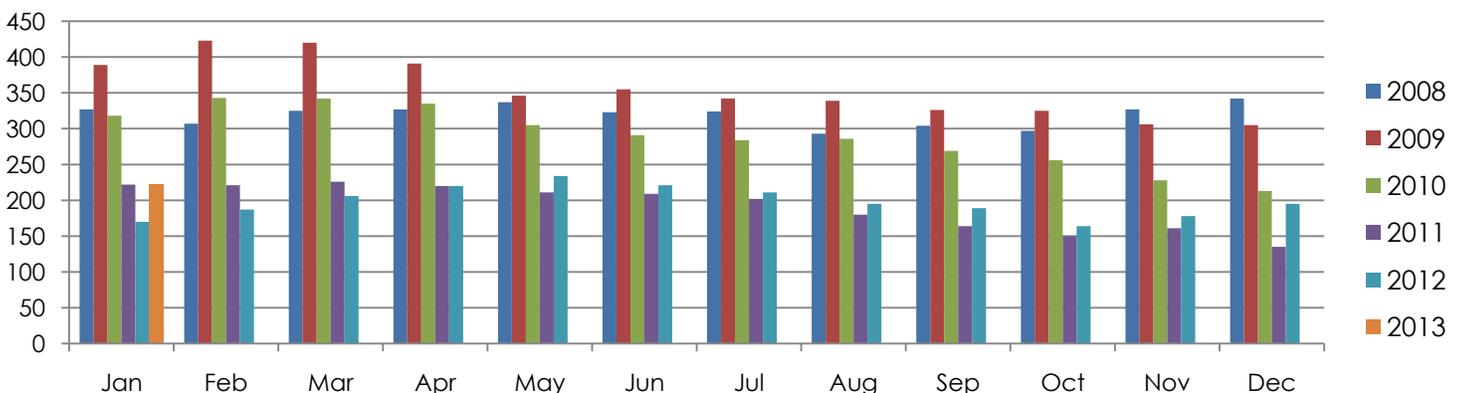
Human Rights Watch released its [2013 World Report](#) and expressed concern regarding the continued arrest, detention and ill treatment of Palestinian children by Israeli authorities.

The [report notes](#) that Palestinian children are usually arrested in their homes at night, questioned without a lawyer or family member present, and coerced to sign confessions in Hebrew, which they do not understand.

The UN Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) on Israeli Settlements [released its report](#)

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Number of Palestinian Children in Israeli Detention: Jan 2008-Jan 2013



January 2013 IN FIGURES

Each year approximately 500–700 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 from sources including the Israeli Prison Service (IPS) and Israeli army temporary detention facilities, there were **223** Palestinian children (12–17 years) in Israeli detention at the end of January 2013. This represents an **increase of 28 children (14%)** from the previous month.

Total number of Palestinian children in Israeli detention at the end of each month since Jan 2009 - Note: These figures are not cumulative

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Aver.
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	211	209	202	180	164	150	161	135	192
2012	170	187	206	220	234	221	211	195	189	164	178	195	198
2013	223												223

12-15 year olds

In January there was an increase in the number of young children (12–15 years) being prosecuted in Israeli military courts and receiving custodial sentences in prisons inside Israel. At the end of January, there were **31** young children in detention, an **increase of 8 children (34.8%)** from the December 2012.

Number of young (12-15) Palestinians in Israeli detention at the end of each month since January 2009 - Note: These figures are not cumulative

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Aver.
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	38	38	40	34	35	30	33	19	36
2012	26	24	31	33	39	35	34	30	28	21	21	23	29
2013	31												31

Girls in detention

There is currently one Palestinian girl being held in Israeli detention. The 17-year-old girl from Hebron was arrested at a checkpoint on 26 July 2012, after been found in possession of a knife and pepper spray, which she is accused of using on a female soldier.

Number of Palestinian girls in Israeli detention at the end of each month since January 2009 - Note: These figures are not cumulative

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Aver.
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	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.2
2012	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.5
2013	1												1

Administrative detention

There are currently no Palestinian children being held without charge or trial in Israeli administrative detention. DCI continues to recommend that no child should be the subject of administrative detention and Israeli military law should be amended to reflect this position.

Number of Palestinian children held in Israeli administrative detention at the end of each month since January 2009 - Note: These figures are not cumulative

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Aver.
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	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.2
2012	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2013	0												0

Case summaries

Lawyers and fieldworkers for DCI-Palestine collect sworn affidavits from Palestinian children in prison and upon their release. These affidavits are drafted 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 brief case summaries are produced. New case summaries are regularly posted [here](#).

14 January 2013

Name of victim: Salah S.
Age at time of arrest: 15 years
Accusation: Throwing stones
Place of residence: 'Azzun, Qalqiliya, West Bank

While looking for sage in a small forest near his village, Salah encountered four Israeli soldiers at around 4:00 p.m. He was physically and verbally abused; his hands were tied behind his back with a single plastic cord, blindfolded and arrested without any explanation. He was brought to a military jeep and forced to sit on the metal floor. During transfer to Ari'el police station he was insulted and physically and verbally abused.

Upon arrival at Ari'el police station around 7:00 p.m., he was interrogated without the presence of a lawyer and was not informed of his rights. Salah's hands remained tied during interrogation and he was physically assaulted in the interrogation room. He confessed to throwing stones and signed a statement in Arabic, but was not allowed to read it and the document was not explained to him. He was then blindfolded and transferred to Huwarra interrogation and detention centre where a doctor asked him general questions about his health, he was strip searched and detained until the following day. At 12:00 p.m. the next day, he was transferred to Megiddo prison inside Israel.

Salah appeared before a military judge for the first time on 17 January 2013, nearly three full days after his arrest. His detention was extended until the end of legal proceedings. His next military court appearance is scheduled for 11 March 2013.

29 January 2013

Name of victim: Mo'tasem H.
Age at time of arrest: 17 years
Accusation: Throwing stones
Place of residence: Sarra, Nablus

Mo'tasem was arrested by Israeli soldiers from his home around 2:30 a.m. He was accused of throwing stones. He awoke to the sound of Israeli soldiers near his home, and shortly after, soldiers stormed his house. Mo'tasem was detained in the living room, away from his family, blindfolded and his hands were tied behind his back with a single plastic cord. He was transported to Huwarra interrogation and detention centre where he was physically assaulted. He was detained with adults in a small cell until the following day.

The next afternoon he was transferred to Salem interrogation and detention centre where he was interrogated by an Arabic-speaking Israeli. His hands and feet remained tied and he was not informed of his rights. The interrogator told Mo'tasem that his friends, who had been arrested earlier, had said in their statements that he had thrown stones. The interrogator then read their statements to him, and Mo'tasem provided a confession. "I had no choice but to confess," said Mo'tasem. He was given a statement in Arabic to sign, but he did not have an opportunity to read the document and it was not explained to him. Later that day, he was transferred to Megiddo prison inside Israel, where he was strip searched on arrival.

Mo'tasem first appeared before judge at Salem military court on 31 January 2013. His detention has been extended several times and his next military court appearance is scheduled for 11 March 2013.

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 ill-treatment 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 audio-visually 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.

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highlighting that "most children are arrested at friction points, such as villages near settlements or on roads used by the army or settlers and that run by a Palestinian village."

The report notes that Palestinian children's rights are violated during arrest, interrogation, detention, trial and sentencing.

Relying on information supplied by DCI-Palestine, the FFM reports that approximately 90 percent of children are given custodial sentences and 60 percent will serve their sentences inside Israel. Pleading guilty because this "is the quickest way out of the system whether the offence was committed or not."

For more information on Palestinian child detainees...

Urgent Appeals

- [UA 3/12](#) – Children of the Sea
- [UA 2/12](#) – Forcible transfer
- [UA 1/12](#) – Solitary confinement
- [UA 6/11](#) – Children of Beit Ummar
- [UA 4/11](#) – Children of Azzun
- [UA 3/11](#) – Settler violence

DCI-Palestine Report

[Bound, Blindfolded & Convicted: Children held in military detention](#)

www.dci-palestine.org

Other reports

- [WCLAC](#) – Women's Voices: Glimpses of life under occupation
- [Breaking the Silence](#) – Soldiers' Testimonies: Children and Youth
- [UK lawyers](#) – Children in Military Custody
- [B'Tselem](#) – No Minor Matter
- [PHR](#) – Coerced false confessions



Israeli soldiers on patrol. Hebron, West Bank. © DCI