



Israeli forces disperse demonstrators near Ofer prison on 15 February 2013.
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Overview February 2013

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

[Al Jazeera](#) covers and interviews DCI-Palestine on the impact of recent demonstrations on Palestinian children.

[UNOCHA](#) highlights escalation in clashes during protests in support of Palestinian prisoners and expresses concern for increase in serious injuries.

DCI-Palestine NEWS ALERTS

12 March 2013 – [Stone-throwing Israeli settler injures child in Hebron](#)

5 March 2013 – [Israeli forces seriously injure two youths at Aida refugee camp](#)

28 February 2013 – [Palestinian youth severely beaten by Israeli soldiers near Huwara](#)

26 February 2013 – [Palestinian boy allegedly used as human shield near Ofer](#)

For more visit:

<http://bit.ly/WQmfYp>

In February 2013, Palestinians held numerous demonstrations across the Occupied Palestinian Territory in support of four Palestinian prisoners on an extended hunger strike.

Clashes between Palestinian youth and Israeli forces intensified following the death of Palestinian detainee, Arafat Jaradat, amid allegations of torture while in Israeli military detention.

The increase in demonstrations and the resulting response by Israeli forces has exposed children, whether participating or not, to various forms of violence.

Israeli soldiers [shot and seriously injured](#) two Palestinian teenagers at the entrance to Aida refugee camp near Bethlehem late February during separate clashes with demonstrators.

On the evening of February 24, Odai Saleh, 15, and his younger brother, Amir, 14, wound up in the middle of a confrontation between Palestinian protesters and Israeli soldiers while leaving Aida refugee camp. As the soldiers drew closer to the crowd, a bullet struck Odai in the head. Two soldiers dragged Odai to a military

guard tower where an ambulance transferred him to hospital.

Around 2 pm the following day, Mohammad al-Kurdi, 14, found himself in the cross hairs of Israeli soldiers dispersing dozens of stone-throwing Palestinians near the camp entrance when he was shot. Nearby youth carried him to a private car that took him to the local hospital, according to an eyewitness.

On 17 February, Israeli soldiers forced a [9-year-old Palestinian boy](#) at gunpoint to walk among them while they confronted Palestinian demonstrators near Ofer prison outside Ramallah.

Since 2004, DCI-Palestine has documented 20 cases involving children used as human shields by Israeli forces. Nineteen of the 20 cases have occurred after the Israeli High Court of Justice ruled the practice to be illegal in October 2005.

On 3 February, two boys, 15 and 16 years old, from Jabalia refugee camp were shot and injured by Israeli soldiers near the border fence east of Beit Hanoun, Gaza.

Number of Palestinian children killed as a result of Israeli military and settler presence in the OPT

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	TOTAL
94	98	192	130	162	52	124	50	112	315	8	15	43	2	1,397

Case summaries

Lawyers and fieldworkers for DCI-Palestine collect sworn affidavits from Palestinian children detailing violations of their rights. These affidavits are drafted in Arabic and further reviewed by trained staff to determine appropriate follow-up action. Each year, hundreds of these affidavits are translated into English from which brief case summaries are produced. New case summaries are regularly posted [here](#).

17 February 2013

Name: Mustafa Wahdan (9)
Location: Beituniya, Ramallah, West Bank
Violation: Used as human shield by Israeli forces

Israeli soldiers forced Mustafa, 9, at gunpoint to walk among them while they confronted Palestinian demonstrators near Ofer prison outside Ramallah.

Around midday, Mustafa told DCI-Palestine that he was on his way home from his older brother's car wash service, approximately 300 meters (1000 feet) from Ofer checkpoint, when clashes intensified, forcing him to take shelter in a nearby store. Israeli soldiers saw him enter the shop and rushed after him. They detained Mustafa, ordering him to raise his hands behind his head, and allegedly used him as a human shield for several hours while they fired teargas canisters and rubber bullets at stone-throwing protesters.

"Whenever they wanted to fire teargas or shoot bullets at the protesters, they would take me with them," said Mustafa. "I was really scared that a stone might hit me."

Mustafa said that one of the soldiers kept his rifle pointed at his back throughout the experience. He was finally let go when his father arrived at the scene and pleaded with the soldiers for his son's release.

» Read the news alert: <http://bit.ly/WfGuAM>

1 February 2013

Names: Ahmad N. (15) & Ibrahim N. (16)
Location: Israeli-Gaza border, Beit Hanoun, North Gaza
Violation: Injured by live ammunition

Ibrahim, 16, and Ahmad, 15, were both shot in the leg by live ammunition fired by Israeli soldiers near the border fence. At around 3:00 p.m., Ibrahim met his friend Hasan, 17, and went to Abu Safiya hill, located east of Beit Hanoun, to hunt birds.

When they arrived about 30 minutes later, about 50 other youths were already there. Some were throwing stones at two soldiers near a metal gate in the fence. About ten military jeeps were parked on the other side of the border fence about 50 metres away. Ibrahim, Hasan and Ahmad were far away from the border fence when soldiers began firing teargas canisters at the stone-throwing youths.

Ibrahim and the others felt exposed so they started running towards the hill. As they were running, Ibrahim heard two gunshots fired almost simultaneously. "I felt something hit my right leg and it knocked me down," says Ibrahim. "I heard Ahmad screaming and asking for help. He was less than half a metre behind me. I looked at him and saw a hole in his right shin. I saw white bone and his shin was bleeding profusely." They both called for help but nobody wanted to expose themselves to gunfire in order to reach them.

After about 15 minutes, the Israeli soldiers drove away from the border fence. Some of the youths rushed to Ahmad and brought him to where Ibrahim was waiting for an ambulance. "He was unconscious, with his clothes and legs covered in blood," says Ibrahim. "The bleeding had almost stopped. He was bleeding for 15 minutes and I thought that he had run out of blood." They were taken to Shifa Hospital and received immediate medical treatment. Ahmad was in critical condition because he lost a lot of blood and was later transferred to Israel for medical treatment.

13 February 2013

Name: Islam S. (9)
Location: Sarra, Nablus
Violation: Settler violence

Islam, 9, and her mother were attacked by several female settlers near Zatara checkpoint while they waited for a car to take them to a nearby village.

Just after 3:00 p.m., Islam and her mother were standing on the sidewalk at Salfit junction. Suddenly, about six female settlers rushed towards them. Islam and her mother tried to flee but the settlers chased them, pushing and knocking Islam's mother to the ground.

As the settlers kicked her mother, Islam screamed and tried to push them away. Two more settlers soon arrived and shoved Islam against a fence. Then one of them grabbed her by the neck and choked her while the other slapped her in the face. She was then shoved to the ground.

"I was shaking because I was very scared and worried about my mother," said Islam. "I burst into tears." The settlers ran off as a Palestinian man approached to help. Israeli soldiers in military jeeps arrived shortly after and ushered the settlers back to Tappuah settlement.

For more information...

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 reports

- [Bound, Blindfolded & Convicted: Children held in Military Detention](#)
- [Voices from East Jerusalem: The Situation facing Palestinian Children](#)
- [Under Attack: Settler Violence against Palestinian Children](#)

Other reports

- [UNICEF](#) – Children in Israeli Military Detention
- [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

Main entrance to the village of Beit Ummar, Hebron, West Bank. © DCI

