

In conjunction with **International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People** on 29 November, please act to remember and advocate for Palestinian children's rights.

It is estimated that between 500 and 700 Palestinian children, as young as 12 years old, are charged under military law and imprisoned by the Israeli government every year. Hundreds more children are taken by Israeli soldiers and police, often at gunpoint during night-raids, held for hours or days, and released without charge. Many of these detainees are held in prisons inside Israel, not Palestine, in direct contravention of international law and beyond the reach of their Palestinian families. Three quarters of those detained experience physical violence and interrogation. This deliberate strategy of the Israeli state is intended to break the spirit of Palestinian families and communities. The goal is to prevent them from resisting the occupation.

In 2020, Canadians submitted [e-petition 2667](#) to the House of Commons calling on Canada to appoint a Special Envoy to address the treatment of Palestinian children. The goal of the petition was to shine light on the kidnap, arrest, detainment, abuse, torture, and murder of Palestinian children by Israeli military and police. The Government's response was to table the petition.

And now, the Israeli Government has effectively outlawed six prominent Palestinian human rights groups, by declaring them terrorist organizations. Among the six is Defense for Children International Palestine, an independent and well-respected advocate for Palestinian children's rights for thirty years. International laws, meant to protect an occupied population, and laws to protect children's rights, are being broken daily. Action is needed to end these practices.

Canada, **Stand Up for Palestinian Children's Rights**, urges you to support Palestinian children living under Israeli military occupation by writing a letter to Government officials. Please write to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and your own member of parliament. A link to a sample letter and contact information is provided.

For more information see:

The United Network for Peace in Palestine and Israel <https://bit.ly/3DctDVK>

Military Court Watch <http://www.militarycourtwatch.org/>

Defense of Children International - Palestine section <https://www.dci-palestine.org/>

Canadian Friends Service Committee <https://quakerservice.ca/news/no-way-treat-child/>