



DEBATE PACK

Number CDP 2015/0135, 4 January 2016

Child prisoners and detainees in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

Julie Gill
Vaughne Miller

A Westminster Hall debate initiated by the Member **Sarah Champion** on 'Child prisoners and detainees in the Occupied Palestinian Territories' has been scheduled for Wednesday 6 January 2016 at 9.30am.

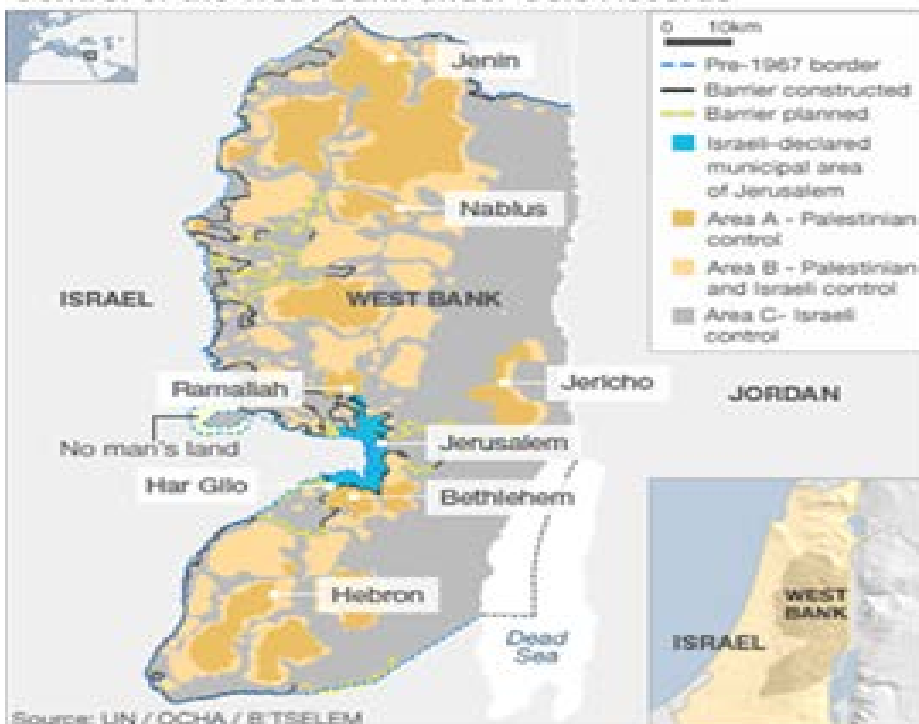
The Library subject specialist for this area is Vaughne Miller.

The proceedings of this debate may be viewed on parliamentlive.tv.

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Control of the West Bank under Oslo Accords



The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefings can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

1. Summary

A number of international and national – including Israeli – human rights organisations have investigated and reported on the situation of Palestinian child detainees in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs) and Israel. They draw attention to a range of issues including: random and night time arrests, arrests of young children, interrogation techniques, pre-trial detention, trial procedures, the military juvenile court, punishment and sentencing, conditions in military detention and aftercare.

Israel has ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol on children and armed conflict, but has been slow to incorporate the principles and provisions of the Convention into its domestic legal system.

In June 2012 a delegation of nine UK lawyers published an FCO-funded, independent report, [Children in Military Custody](#), on the plight of Palestinian children arrested and detained by Israel. It found that Israel's treatment of Palestinian child prisoners was in breach of:

- Article 76 of the 4th Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (concerning occupied territories), and
- Several Articles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

The report made 43 core and specific recommendations and the UK Government promised to take up the issues with the Israeli Government. On 21 October 2015 Tobias Ellwood [replied](#) to a question about progress in carrying out the recommendations, saying that "there has been some progress on the issue of children held in military detention".

In 2013 Israel submitted a periodic report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, which monitors implementation of the Convention, to which the Committee [responded](#) in June 2013. It regretted Israel's "persistent refusal to provide information and data and to respond to the Committee's written questions on children living in the Occupied Palestinian Territory ..., including East Jerusalem and the Occupied Syrian Golan Heights". The Committee noted Israel's follow-up measures and some progress, and took into account its national security concerns, but emphasised:

... that the illegal long-lasting occupation of Palestinian territory and the Syrian Golan Heights, the continued expansion of unlawful settlements and construction of the Wall into the West Bank as well as land confiscation, destruction of houses and livelihood of Palestinians constitute severe and continuous violations of the rights of Palestinian children and their families, feed the cycle of humiliation and violence and jeopardize a peaceful and stable future for all children of the region.

Figures for the number of Palestinian children in Israeli gaols vary. In its [October 2015 Newsletter](#), Military Court Watch put the figure at 171 at the end of September 2015. According to the [Palestinian Information Centre on 12 November 2015](#), in the space of a month nearly 800 Palestinian children and minors under the age of 18 had been arrested and the number of children in Israeli gaols had risen to nearly 340 (the highest number since 2010). Most of the detained children were from occupied Jerusalem and the West Bank, although arrests were made in the Gaza Strip.

2. News stories

Palestinian News and Information Agency
29 December 2015

[Israel detained 5,934 children since 2010](#)

Washington Post
25 December 2015
William Booth and Ruth Eglash

[Israelis are calling attacks a 'new kind of Palestinian terrorism'](#)

+972
23 December 2015
Edo Konrad

[Settlers protest alleged torture of Jewish teens in Tel Aviv](#)

Al Arabiya
14 December 2015

[Israel opens probe into use of excessive force](#)

Jerusalem Post
12 December 2015
Khaled Abu Toameh

[Abbas claims Palestinians are facing a new 'nakba'](#)

Middle East Eye
8 December 2015
Sheren Khalel and Abed al Qaisi

[Israeli forces detain children as young as 7 during recent crackdown](#)

Times of Israel
22 November 2015
Tamar Pileggi

[Ministers approve lowering minimum incarceration age to 12](#)

Haaretz editorial
12 November 2015

[Israel's approach to terror erodes its democracy](#)

Al Jazeera
28 October 2015
Ylenia Gostoli

[Oz: Israel's prison for Palestinian children](#)

New Yorker
23 October 2015
Bernard Avishai

[What provoked Palestinian knife attacks in Israel?](#)

Financial Times
22 October 2015
John Reed

[Mutual suspicion fuels upsurge of violence in Israel](#)

International Business Times
17 October 2015

[Palastinian children taught 'how to stab a Jew' says Israeli UN ambassador Danon](#)

BBC News Online
31 July 2015

[Palestinian fury as 'Jewish settler' arson attack kills child](#)

Times of Israel
24 June 2015
JTA

[19 US lawmakers sign letter on detained Palestinian children](#)

Middle East Eye
19 June 2015
Ramona Wade

[UN complicity in Israel's war crimes](#)

Haaretz
18 June 2015
Barak Ravid

[Israel complains to UN: report on Palestinian children biased, kept secret from Israel](#)

Times of Israel
7 May 2015
JTA

[Palestinians push to put Israel on UN list of child abusers](#)

Telegraph
4 May 2015
Robert Tait

[Israeli police 'arrested eight-year-old boy for throwing rocks'](#)

Al Jazeera
10 April 2015
Patrick Strickland

[Israeli courts convict hundreds of Palestinian children](#)

Independent
28 March 2015
Lizzie Dearden

[Israeli soldiers filmed waking Palestinian children in middle of the night for questioning](#)

Jerusalem Post
24 March 2015
Yonah Jeremy Bob

[UN rights body 'gravely concerned' about treatment of Palestinian minors in IDF courts](#)

Guardian

17 March 2015

Harriet Sherwood

[**UN officials accused of bowing to Israeli pressure over children's rights list**](#)

Guardian

22 February 2015

Peter Beaumont

[**14-year-old Palestinian jailed for stone-throwing maintains innocence**](#)

3. Parliamentary material

3.1 Questions

[Palestinians: Detainees](#)

Date for answer: 5 Jan 2016 | 20242

Tabled by: Andy Slaughter | Party: Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, with reference to the statement by Baroness Anelay of St John's of 28 October 2014, HCWA 149, what progress has been made arranging a return visit with the delegation who compiled the Children in Military Custody report.

[Israel: Palestinians](#)

16 December 2015 | HL4292

Asked by: Baroness Tonge | Party: Independent Liberal Democrats

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel concerning the detention and interrogation of a six year-old boy in Bethlehem.

Answered by: Baroness Anelay of St Johns | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

While we have not raised this specific incident with the Israeli authorities, we have been informed by officials from our Consulate General in Jerusalem that the child concerned has reportedly been released.

We regularly raise the issue of detention of minors with the Israel government. On 27 August our Ambassador in Tel Aviv lobbied the Israeli Military Advocate General on our concerns about children in detention.

[Israel: Palestinians](#)

16 December 2015 | HL4290

Asked by: Baroness Tonge | Party: Independent Liberal Democrats

To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 17 November (HL3625), what representations they are making to the government of Israel regarding the identification of the ages of Palestinian children prior to their arrest and detention.

Answered by: Baroness Anelay of St Johns | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv raised this issue with the Israeli Ministry of Justice (MoJ) when they met on 3 November and were informed that a small number of children under 12 had been detained. The Israeli MoJ stated that once their age was established, the minors were released. They also told officials that if identification was not available, parents of the individuals were contacted via the Palestinian District Coordination Office. Since the publication of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office-funded independent report on Children in

Military Custody in June 2012, there has been some progress on the issue of children held in military detention in Israel. This includes a pilot to use summons instead of night-time arrests, changes to standard operating procedures on methods of restraint, and steps to reduce the amount of time a child can be detained before seeing a judge. While we welcome improvements, we continue to push for the full implementation of changes and to encourage further changes in practice.

Israel: Palestinians

30 November 2015 | HL3625

Asked by: Baroness Tonge | Party: Independent Liberal Democrats

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about the arrest and interrogation by Israeli police of Palestinian children in East Jerusalem, in particular regarding reports that children aged between six and 12 have been arrested and interrogated without a parent present.

Answered by: Baroness Anelay of St Johns | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

We consistently raise the issue of detention of minors with the Israel government. On 27 August our Ambassador in Tel Aviv lobbied the Israeli Military Advocate General on Children in Detention where the issue of child detention was discussed. We are aware of cases when the Israeli police have detained children under 12, and subsequently released them once their age has been verified. When officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv raised this with the police, they were told that the police do not hold children under the age of 12 but are not always aware that a particular child is below age.

According to the law, the police may hold a child over the age of 12 suspected of involvement in a security offence without allowing his/her parents to be present at the time of his/her arrest and interrogation. This is true for both Israeli and Palestinian minors held on security offences. We continue to lobby for the Israeli authorities to consider changing the law for the sake of the well-being of the child.

Palestinians: Detainees

25 November 2015 | 16735

Asked by: Andy Slaughter | Party: Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, how many of the (a) core recommendations and (b) specific recommendations of his Department's report entitled Children in Military Custody, published in June 2012, the Israeli government has implemented.

Answered by: Tobias Ellwood | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Since the publication of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office-funded independent report on Children in Military Custody in June 2012, there has been some progress on the issue of children held in military detention. This includes a pilot to use summons instead of night-time arrests, changes to standard operating procedures on methods of restraint, and

steps to reduce the amount of time a child can be detained before seeing a judge. There has also been a reduction in the use of solitary confinement and an increase in the use of Arabic to give notifications of arrest.

While we welcome the improvements to date, we continue to press the Israeli authorities to make further progress on this important issue.

Palestinians: Detainees

24 November 2015 | 17001

Asked by: Andy Slaughter | Party: Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent representations his Department has made to the Israeli government on the Children in Military Custody report, funded by his Department, which was published in June 2012.

Answered by: Tobias Ellwood | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv have held roundtable meetings with Israeli officials to discuss the Children in Military Custody report, most recently on 19 May. Since the publication of the report, there has been some progress on the issue of children held in military detention. This includes piloting of sending summons instead of carrying out night-time arrests, changes to standard operating procedures on methods of restraint, and steps to reduce the amount of time a child can be detained before seeing a judge. There has also been a reduction in the use of solitary confinement and an increase in the use of Arabic to give notifications of arrest. Officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv continue to push for further progress with Israeli officials. On 27 August, our Ambassador in Tel Aviv lobbied the Israeli Military Advocate General on Children in Detention where the issue of child detention was discussed.

Palestinians: Detainees

21 October 2015 | 11958

Asked by: Sir Nicholas Soames | Party: Conservative Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, how many of the recommendations of the 2011 report on Palestinian children in military custody, funded by his Department, have been carried out.

Answered by: Tobias Ellwood | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Since the publication of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office-funded independent report on Children in Military Custody in June 2012, there has been some progress on the issue of children held in military detention.

Officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv held roundtable meetings with Israeli officials, most recently on 19 May. These meetings confirmed that progress is being made including a pilot to use summons instead of night-time arrests, changes to standard operating procedures on methods of restraint, and steps to reduce the amount of time a child can be detained

before seeing a judge. Officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv continue to push for further progress with Israeli officials.

On 2 June, the Minister of State, my noble Friend the right hon. Baroness Anelay of St Johns met the Israeli Military Advocate General and the Israeli Ambassador in London where the issue of child detention was discussed. She made clear that while we welcome improvements, we continue to push for the full implementation of changes and to encourage further changes in practice.

Palestinians: Detainees

21 October 2015 | 11910

Asked by: Liam Byrne | Party: Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, how many of the recommendations of the report on children in military custody published by his Department in June 2012 have been implemented.

Answered by: Tobias Ellwood | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Since the publication of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office-funded independent report on Children in Military Custody in June 2012, there has been some progress on the issue of children held in military detention.

Officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv held roundtable meetings with Israeli officials, most recently on 19 May. These meetings confirmed that progress is being made including a pilot to use summons instead of night-time arrests, changes to standard operating procedures on methods of restraint, and steps to reduce the amount of time a child can be detained before seeing a judge. Officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv continue to push for further progress with Israeli officials.

On 2 June, the Minister of State, my noble Friend the right hon. Baroness Anelay of St Johns met the Israeli Military Advocate General and the Israeli Ambassador in London where the issue of child detention was discussed. She made clear that while we welcome improvements, we continue to push for the full implementation of changes and to encourage further changes in practice.

Israel: Palestinians

24 Jun 2015 | HL468

Asked by: Baroness Tonge | Party: Independent Liberal Democrats

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Israel regarding its policy on child detention, in the light of the 1,266 detentions by Israel of Palestinians under the age of 15 documented by the Palestine Liberation Organization in 2014; and what recommendations from the 2012 report Children in Military Custody have so far been adopted.

Answered by: Baroness Anelay of St Johns | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

I met the Israeli Military Advocate General and the Israeli Ambassador in London on 2 June where the issue of child detention was discussed. I was given an update on the efforts made by Israel on the issue of Palestinian child detainees.

I made clear that while we welcome improvements, such as changes to standard operating procedures on methods of restraint and the pilot to use summons instead of night-time arrests; we continue to push for the full implementation of changes and to encourage further changes in practice.

[Israel: Palestinians](#)

17 June 2015 | HL346

Asked by: Baroness Tonge | Party: Independent Liberal Democrats

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have held with the government of Israel concerning the State Attorney's decision to file an indictment for only a minor offence in the case of 16 year-old Samir Awad.

Answered by: Baroness Anelay of St Johns | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv have not yet raised the latest update on the Samir Awad case with the Israeli authorities, but they are planning to do so at the next relevant meeting. We understand that the Israeli State Attorney's office made the decision to charge the respective soldiers in this case with reckless and negligent use of firearms. This decision came from the Israel Defense Forces' assessment that it was not clear which of the soldiers fired the firearms. Our Embassy in Tel Aviv is concerned about the high rate of criminal investigations into the fatal shootings of Palestinians that are closed without indictments. They regularly meet with senior Israeli authorities in the Ministry of Justice, Attorney General's Office, Military Advocate General's office, State Comptroller, National Security Council and other government bodies to lobby on this issue.

[Israel: Palestinians](#)

17 June 2015 | HL344

Asked by: Baroness Tonge | Party: Independent Liberal Democrats

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have held with the government of Israel concerning the number of children killed and injured in the West Bank and Gaza, in the light of the current UN debate on Israel's inclusion on the list of countries which violate children's rights.

Answered by: Baroness Anelay of St Johns | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv regularly raise the issue of excessive use of force with the Israeli government and security figures including on cases of children injured and killed. Officials last raised issues surrounding the welfare of Palestinian children with the Israeli Ministry of Justice on 2 June.

[Israel](#)**5 March 2015 | HL5206****Asked by: Lord Judd | Party: Labour Party**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports by UNICEF that children in military detention in Israel have been made to sign untranslated written confessions in Hebrew.

Answered by: Baroness Anelay of St Johns | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Since the publication of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office-funded independent report on Children in Military Custody in June 2012, there has been some progress on the issue of children held in military detention. This includes a pilot to use summons instead of night-time arrests, and steps to reduce the amount of time a child can be detained before seeing a judge. We have welcomed the steps taken to date, but we have called for further measures, including the mandatory use of audio-visual recording of interrogations, investigation into continued reports of single hand ties being used, and an end to solitary confinement for children. We continue to have concerns about mistreatment of Palestinian detainees including that children in military detention in Israel have been made to sign untranslated written confessions in Hebrew, and about Israel's respect for its obligations in this regard as an Occupying Power under applicable international law. Israeli interlocutors at the Ministry of Justice have told us that the security orders mandate that all documents must be written in both Hebrew and Arabic – including any information added by hand. We have raised concerns over treatment of Palestinian detainees with the Israeli authorities on many occasions, including at Foreign Minister, Attorney General and National Security Adviser levels. We will continue to follow up on these allegations and raise this issue as a serious concern.

[Israel](#)**5 March 2015 | HL5205****Asked by: Lord Judd | Party: Labour Party**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the reported methods of transportation used in Israel for children held in military detention.

Answered by: Baroness Anelay of St Johns | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Since the publication of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office-funded independent report on Children in Military Custody in June 2012, there has been some progress on the issue of children held in military detention. This includes a pilot to use summons instead of night-time arrests, and steps to reduce the amount of time a child can be detained before seeing a judge. We have welcomed the steps taken to date, but we have called for further measures, including the mandatory use of audio-visual recording of interrogations, investigation into continued reports of single hand ties being used, and an end to solitary confinement for children. We continue to have concerns about mistreatment of Palestinian detainees on various issues but have not yet addressed methods of transportation. We continue to raise concerns over treatment of Palestinian detainees

with the Israeli authorities on many occasions, including at Foreign Minister, Attorney General and National Security Adviser levels.

[Israel](#)

5 March 2015 | HL5204

Asked by: Lord Judd | Party: Labour Party

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the reported use in Israel of solitary confinement for children held in military detention.

Answered by: Baroness Anelay of St Johns | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Both the UN International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have told us that there has been a drastic decrease in the use of solitary confinement of children over the past year. Israeli officials tell us that solitary confinement does not take place, but that children are held in isolation during the time of their interrogation to avoid them from collaborating their stories. We are following up on this point and have asked for statistics on the use of isolation. We have raised concerns over solitary confinement with the Israeli authorities on many occasions, including with the Foreign Minister, Attorney General and National Security Adviser, and most recently with the Director of Human Rights.

[Israel](#)

5 March 2015 | HL5203

Asked by: Lord Judd | Party: Labour Party

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel and what response they have received concerning the second update by UNICEF issued in February 2015 on its report of March 2013 entitled "Children in Military Detention", with reference to the alleged ill-treatment of children during arrest, transfer, interrogation and detention.

Answered by: Baroness Anelay of St Johns | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Since the publication of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office-funded independent report on Children in Military Custody in June 2012, there has been some progress on the issue of children held in military detention. This includes a pilot to use summons instead of night-time arrests, and steps to reduce the amount of time a child can be detained before seeing a judge. We have welcomed the steps taken to date, but we have called for further measures, including the mandatory use of audio-visual recording of interrogations, investigation into continued reports of single hand ties being used, and an end to solitary confinement for children. We continue to have concerns about mistreatment of Palestinian detainees, including during arrest, transfer, interrogation and detention and about Israel's respect of its obligations in this regard as an Occupying Power under applicable international law. We have raised concerns over treatment of Palestinian detainees with the Israeli authorities on many occasions, including at Foreign Minister, Attorney General and National

Security Adviser levels. We have not made representations to the Government of Israel specifically concerning the second update by the UN International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) on its report, "Children in Military Detention".

[Topical Questions](#)

3 March 2015 | 593 c807

Asked by: Grahame M. Morris | Party: Labour Party

We know that 163 Palestinian children are being held in Israeli military detention, and that many are being held inside Israel in direct violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention. What representations is the Secretary of State making to the Israeli authorities with a view to ending that brutal aspect of the illegal occupation?

Answered by: Philip Hammond | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

We routinely make representations to the Israelis on all aspects of illegal conduct — of which that is just one example — and we will continue to do so.

[Palestinians](#)

6 Feb 2015 | HL4608

Asked by: Baroness Tonge | Party: Independent Liberal Democrats

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel concerning the reported imprisonment of Malak Khatib.

Answered by: Baroness Anelay of St Johns | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv have not yet raised the case of Malak al-Khatib with the Israeli authorities, but they plan to raise it with the authorities in upcoming meetings.

[Israel](#)

17 Nov 2014 | HL2664

Asked by: Baroness Tonge | Party: Independent Liberal Democrats

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel concerning its proposal to raise the maximum prison sentence for Palestinians convicted of stone-throwing to 20 years.

Answered by: Baroness Anelay of St Johns | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

While we have not raised this particular issue with the Israeli authorities, our Ambassador to Israel has written to the Israeli Justice Minister, Tzipi Livni, raising our specific concerns on aspects of policy regarding children charged with security-related offences.

[Palestinians](#)

6 Nov 2014 | HL2482

Asked by: Baroness Tonge | Party: Independent Liberal Democrats

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have held with the government of Israel concerning recent reports of an arrest by the Israeli military of a mentally disabled boy in Hebron.

Answered by: Baroness Anelay of St Johns | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The boy in question was released immediately following intervention by his father. The Israel Defense Forces have launched an investigation into the incident. We have not raised this specific case with the Israeli authorities.

[Palestinians](#)

28 Oct 2014 | HL2212

Asked by: Baroness Tonge | Party: Independent Liberal Democrats

To ask Her Majesty's Government what reports they have received from the government of Israel concerning the implementation of recommendations in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office-funded report on the treatment of Palestinian children under Israeli military law.

Answered by: Baroness Anelay of St Johns | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The UK has made repeated representations to Israel on their treatment of Palestinian prisoners, including child detainees. Since the publication of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office-funded independent report on Children in Military Custody in June 2012, there has been some limited progress. This includes a pilot to use summons instead of night-time arrests, and steps to reduce the amount of time a child can be detained before seeing a judge. We have welcomed the steps taken to date, but we have called for further measures, including the mandatory use of audio-visual recording of interrogations, investigation into continued reports of single hand ties being used, and an end to solitary confinement for children. The Government has been working with the delegation who compiled the Children in Military Custody report to make a return visit to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories in the near future.

[Palestinians](#)

15 Oct 2014 | 210024

Asked by: Jim Cunningham | Party: Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will make enquiries with the Israeli government about the current status, treatment and trial of five Palestinian boys from Hares who have been in Israeli custody since March 2013.

Answered by: Tobias Ellwood | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Officials in the British Consulate General in Jerusalem and the British Embassy in Tel Aviv have been following the case closely and officials have

raised our concerns with the Israeli authorities, including the Israeli Defense Forces and Ministry of Justice. We are concerned by any allegations of torture or mistreatment. We have not, however, been able to confirm allegations of torture in this case.

Our Embassy is currently working with the Israeli Ministry of Justice to be allowed to attend one of the trials of the teenagers.

Palestinians

16 Jun 2014 | 582 c378W

Asked by: Bob Stewart | Party: Conservative Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the practice of Palestinian youths being tried by military courts and sentenced to prison for minor offences.

Answered by: Hugh Robertson | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The Government is concerned over the dual court system that is employed in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, under which all Palestinians, except those living in East Jerusalem, are subject to trial in military courts irrespective of the charges against them while Israeli youths are tried in civil courts. We also have serious concerns about the treatment of Palestinian children under the Israeli military court system, which we raise regularly with the Israeli authorities. More details can be found at:

<http://www.hrdreport.fco.gov.uk/israel-and-occupied-palestinian-territories/>

Israel and Palestine

23 Jan 2014 | 751 c161WA

Asked by: Baroness Tonge | Party: Independent Liberal Democrats

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have invited Sir Stephen Sedley to review progress on the recommendations of the Children in Military Custody report; and, if so, when his review is expected.

Answered by: Baroness Warsi | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The Government is in discussion with the delegation who compiled the Children in Military Custody report about a possible return visit to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories in the near future.

3.2 Early day motions

MILITARY COURT WATCH SUBMISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS WORKING GROUP ON ARBITRARY DETENTION

EDM 720

18 November 2015

Paul Monaghan

That this House notes that Military Court Watch has lodged a submission with the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention relating to the detention and transfer of Palestinian minors from the West Bank to prisons located inside Israel in violation of both the Fourth Geneva Convention and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court; further notes that this practice, which is classified under international law as a war crime, affects between 7,000 to 8,000 Palestinians each year, including minors, according to evidence provided by the Israeli Prison Service; and calls on the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention to contest the practice in a manner consistent with its jurisdiction and mandate to ensure that relevant international standards and relevant international legal instruments accepted by both Israel and Palestine as signatories to the Fourth Geneva Convention are fully and timeously addressed.

ISRAELI MILITARY TREATMENT OF PALESTINIAN CHILDREN

EDM 287

13 July 2015

Philippa Whitford

That this House condemns the charging of Palestinian children with offences under Israeli military law and their trial in military courts since the occupation of Palestinian territory in 1967; further condemns the arrests, detention and prosecution of around 700 Palestinian children in the Israeli military court system each year; acknowledges the work that Defence for Children International - Palestine does in increasing awareness and providing legal assistance for Palestinian children; condemns the physical violence that more than three-quarters of Palestinian child detainees in 2014 endured in some form between the period of their arrest and interrogation with half of those also strip-searched; notes that, during arrest and interrogation, 93 per cent of children were denied access to legal counsel and rarely informed of their rights, particularly their right against self-incrimination; further notes that last year almost all children confessed regardless of guilt in order to stop further abuse; notes that in 2014 more than 25 per cent of children signed statements in Hebrew despite not understanding the language; notes in addition that between 2012 and 2014 Israeli military, police and security agents held 54 Palestinian children in solitary confinement for interrogation purposes, prior to charging them with any offence, and that in 2014 the average time that an individual child spent in solitary confinement for interrogation purposes was 15 days; and calls on the Government to demand immediate action from the Israeli government to behave in line with international law.

DETENTION AND TREATMENT OF BOYS FROM HARES

EDM 868 (session 2014-15)

12 March 2015

John McDonnell

That this House notes that 15 March 2015, Mothering Sunday in the UK, marks the second anniversary of the arrest of five 16-year-old Palestinian boys from the village of Hares; condemns their having been dragged out of their homes at 3am by Israeli soldiers with attack dogs, taken without explanation to an adult prison, denied lawyers, tortured physically and psychologically and each put in solitary confinement until they allegedly confessed to crimes they did not commit such as stone-throwing and attempted murder; further condemns this breach of Israeli law, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and Article 76 of the 4th Geneva Convention; and calls on the Government to honour Ms Um Fadi, who spoke in the House at a public meeting in 2014, and the other mothers and families of the five boys who have campaigned tirelessly for their release by doing all it can to get the Israeli government to return the boys to their families without further delay.

G4S AND PALESTINIAN PRISONERS

EDM 358 (session 2013-14)

4 July 2013

Bob Russell

That this House condemns G4S for providing services to Israeli prisons to which Palestinian prisoners are illegally transferred in serious violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention and also, in the case of child prisoners, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child; further condemns G4S for being associated with treatment of Palestinian prisoners, including children, who are routinely subjected to violence and inhumane treatment at G4S-serviced prisons in Israel and Palestine; and urges the Government not to renew any contracts with G4S while it continues to support Israel in its breach of human rights, UN resolutions, international law and the Geneva Convention.

4. Human rights groups' publications

B'Tselem [The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories], '[Statistics on Palestinian minors in the custody of the Israeli security forces](#)', 3 January 2016

Military Court Watch, '[Briefing Note](#)', 16 December 2015

Defense for Children International Palestine, '[Child prisoners swell in numbers amid reports of poor jail conditions](#)', 16 December 2015

Military Court Watch, '[Newsletter](#)', November 2015

Addameer [Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association], '[Corporate complicity in Israeli detention: G4S](#)', 2 October 2015

Defense for Children International Palestine, '[Rising physical violence against Palestinian child detainees](#)', 24 July 2015

Human Rights Watch, '[Israel: security forces abuse Palestinian children](#)', 19 July 2015

Military Court Watch, '[Widespread, systematic and institutionalised abuse of minors in the West Bank: submission - 200 cases](#)', 10 June 2015

B'Tselem, '[Presumed guilty: remand in custody by military courts in the West Bank](#)', Naama Baumgarten-Sharon and Yael Stein, June 2015

UNICEF [UN International Children's Emergency Fund], '[Children in Israeli military detention: observations and recommendations](#)', Bulletin No 2, February 2015

Addameer, '[Aggressions by special units of the Israeli Prison Service against prisoners and detainees during transfers and raids](#)', 30 December 2014

UNICEF, '[Children in Israeli military detention: observations and recommendations](#)', February 2013

5. Further reading

[Report of the UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, A/70/406, 5 October 2015](#)

[Response letter \[to Human Rights Watch\] from the Israeli military regarding military arrests of Palestinian children in the West Bank, 13 July 2015](#)

[Follow-up response letter \[to Human Rights Watch\] from the Ministry of Justice regarding police arrests of Palestinian children in East Jerusalem \(specific cases\), 13 July 2015](#)

[Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories – Country of Concern, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, 12 March 2015](#)

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