



Photo Credit: Jerusalem Post

Seeking Justice: An Introduction to the Reality of Palestinian Children in Israeli Military Detention

Participant Workbook

The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada
June 2020

*“do justice,
love kindness,
and walk humbly with all creation”
(Micah 6:8)*

*and keep at it until
“justice rolls down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream “
(Amos 5:24)*

Acknowledgments

The United Church of Canada in partnership with the United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine/Israel hosted *Creating Brave Spaces for Hard Conversations: Deepening Learning for More Intentional Action* in November of 2018. Volunteers from across the country engaged in learning new skills for sharing information and designed the workshops you have your hands. Jeanette Romkema of Global Learning Partners ably facilitated the event and supported the process from draft workshops to final design, and we are grateful to her.

We give thanks for the many volunteers committed to ending the occupation in Palestine and particularly for promoting the “No Way to Treat a Child” Campaign of Defence for Children International - Palestine. The following people gave a week of their time for travel and education and then further work on refining their workshops. Thanks to: Dawn Waring, Dean Reidt, Debbie Hubbard, Donna Wilson, Doug Rigby, George Bartlett, Jan McIntyre, Jeff Winkelaar, Jim Wicks, Linda Scherzinger, Lori Minler, Mervyn Russell, Myrna Wicks, Nel Ouwens, Norman Williams, Pat Mercer, and Ranya El-Sharkawi. The workshops are:

1. *From Awareness to Action: Building a Network to Advocate for the Rights of Palestinian Children (4 Hours)*
2. *Seeking Justice: An Introduction to the Reality of Palestinian Children in Israeli Military Detention (90 Minutes)*
3. *Stand by Me: The UN Convention on the Rights of a Child and Palestinian Children’s Experiences with the Israeli Military (3 Hours)*
4. *Writing for Action: Letter Writing to Members of Parliament (2 Hours)*
5. *Meet Your MP: It’s Not as Tough as You Think! (2.5 Hours)*
6. *An Introduction to Self-Care for Justice-Seekers (2 Hours)*

All Brave Spaces resources are available for download on the United Church website (www.united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/brave-spaces-talking-about-palestinian-childrens-rights). Note that the Brave Spaces resources were originally conceived of as in-person experiences for small groups; a tip sheet for adapting Brave Spaces for online delivery is also available at this url.

NOTE: This resource was written with the intention of acknowledging a variety of life experiences and cultural differences. However, it is acknowledged that this is done within accepted dominant norms and frameworks that may inherently exclude some people's life experiences and culture.



© 2020
The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada
3250 Bloor St. West, Suite 200
Toronto, ON M8X 2Y4 CANADA

Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial Share Alike Licence. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.5/ca>. Any copy must include this notice.

Images in this resource used by permission of Defence for Children International—Palestine, a United Church Mission & Service partner.

Endorsement

“The United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine/Israel (UNJPPI) is an informal network of United Church of Canada people. We work for a just peace in Palestine and Israel by calling for an end to the illegal Israeli military occupation and equal right for all who live in Israel and Palestine. We do this through education and advocacy.

UNJPPI was pleased to support the Brave Spaces for Hard Conversations event and are now pleased to endorse and help share the workshops that were developed at the event. We expect that they will be an invaluable asset for people doing education and advocacy work in support of Palestinian children and their families. “

- The United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine/Israel (UNJPPI)



Welcome!

Acknowledgement of the Land

We gratefully acknowledge that we gather on the territory of _____. We acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages and we seek to live with respect on this land, and live in peace and friendship with its people.

More information from United Church of Canada can be found here:

www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/acknowledging-the-territory.pdf

Who Are We and Why Are We Here?

Let's hear a bit about who we are and why we are here...

Overview

Here is the plan for this workshop:

Imagine...

Remember your childhood

Experience...

View a video and reflect

Learn...

Meet our global partner, Defence for Children International – Palestine

Respond...

Commit to action

- *Which part interests you most? Why?*

Imagine...

Think back to when you were a young teen of 14 or 15-years-old. Take a few minutes to **re-member** those times.

- *Was it a happy time? A sad time? A difficult time?*
- *Which experience(s) stand out for you?*

My memories...

As you are ready, and if you are comfortable doing so, we invite you to **share** what stands out for you in these memories in pairs.

Experience...

We invite you to experience the 20-minute video, *Detaining Dreams*. It will give us a window on the lived experience of Palestinian children being arrested and detained under Israeli military occupation.

As you watch, please **consider** the following questions:

- *What are these children experiencing – what is their reality?*
- *How do you think they felt about what happened to them?*
- *How might these experiences affect their lives? Their families?*

My thoughts...

Let's hear some of your thoughts.

Learn...

Meet Defense for Children International Palestine, a Mission and Service Partner of The United Church of Canada and learn about their campaign “No Way to Treat a Child (NWTTC).” As you listen, **consider**:

- *What is our responsibility as a justice seeking church?*

NOTE: There is a 1-page information sheet on the next page to follow along.



Our responsibilities are...

Share your thoughts in your table groups.

Large group **debrief**:

- *What did you notice about all that was shared at your table?*
- *What is becoming clearer for you? Less clear?*

We invite you now to hold silence with one another as we bring to mind, and hold in our hearts the children of Palestine.



“No Way to Treat a Child”

The “No Way to Treat a Child” campaign seeks to:

- Challenge Israel’s prolonged military occupation of Palestine
- Expose the widespread and systematic ill-treatment of Palestinian children in Israeli military detention

It is a project of:

- Defense for Children International Palestine (DCI-P)
- American Friends Service Committee (Quakers)
- Supported by The United Church of Canada. DCI-P is a Mission and Service Partner of the church.

Did you know?

- Each year the Israeli military arrests and prosecutes over 700 Palestinian children
- These children experience ill-treatment and torture at the hands of Israeli forces
- 3 out of 4 children experience some form of physical violence following their arrest

Refer to NWTAC handout in the appendix which details the 5 stages of detention experienced by Palestinian children in Israeli Military Detention. Note the following highlights:

- **Arrest**
 - Children are often taken from their homes in the middle of the night (“night raids”)
 - 3 out of 4 children experience physical violence
- **Transfer**
 - Children are bound, blindfolded and forced into a military vehicle
 - Children are not told where they are being taken
 - Parents are given no information
- **Interrogation**
 - Techniques are mentally and physically coercive; often forced to sign “confessions” in Hebrew (which they do not understand)
 - Children have no right to an attorney at this stage
 - 97% are denied access to a parent
- **Hearing**
 - Children appear in military court within 24-96 hours after their arrest
 - Children are held in custodial pretrial detention
 - The hearing is in Hebrew (with Arabic translation)
- **Sentence**
 - Military court sentence has 3 parts: imprisonment, fine, and suspended sentence
 - Half of the children receive a custodial sentence of 3-12 months
 - Some of the children receive 1-3 years

NWTAC requests global support in its effort to put a stop to Israeli military detention!

- STOP night arrests
- STOP blindfolds and restraints
- STOP separation from parents
- STOP physical and psychological violence
- STOP isolation and coerced confessions
- STOP unlawful transfers

Respond...

Today, we challenge you to **commit** to an action in response to our partner’s call for justice.

As a justice seeking church, you are invited to pray with your feet – to commit to at least ONE concrete action that you can take, *now* – to move the “No Way to Treat a Child” campaign forward. Please consider the following:

1. Sign and mail a postcard asking the Canadian government to take a principled stand against the arrest, torture, and detention of Palestinian children by the Israeli army.
2. Commit to share today’s video, *Detaining Dreams*, with 1 other person.
(www.nwttac.canada.dci-palestine.org/video_detaining_dreams)
3. Select 1 resource in the Appendix and invite a few friends to watch a video or join in a book study, followed by group dialogue and discussion.
4. Contact the facilitators to discuss the possibility of a follow-up workshop with your regional cluster.
5. Explore the possibility of forming a UC Network focusing on “Justice in Palestine and Israel.”
6. ... *an idea of your own.*

Take time now to **consider** which 1 action you might take and **write** it down in the space provided.

I will pray with my feet by committing to the following action:

Let’s hear some of your plans and be inspired!



Closing

We are grateful for our time together today. Let's close by standing as a community of the United Church to voice our joint commitment. As you are able, please **stand** as we read together.

May this be our prayer...

We have learned about the work of the "No Way to Treat a Child" Campaign led by Mission and Service Partner, Defense for Children International - Palestine, and supported by the national body of the United Church of Canada.

***We stand together as (name your group...)
of the United Church of Canada
to commit ourselves anew to the work of justice
walking with Palestinian children who are defenseless and abused.***

***In the words of the ancient Hebrew prophets,
we commit to do justice,
love kindness,
and walk humbly with all creation.***

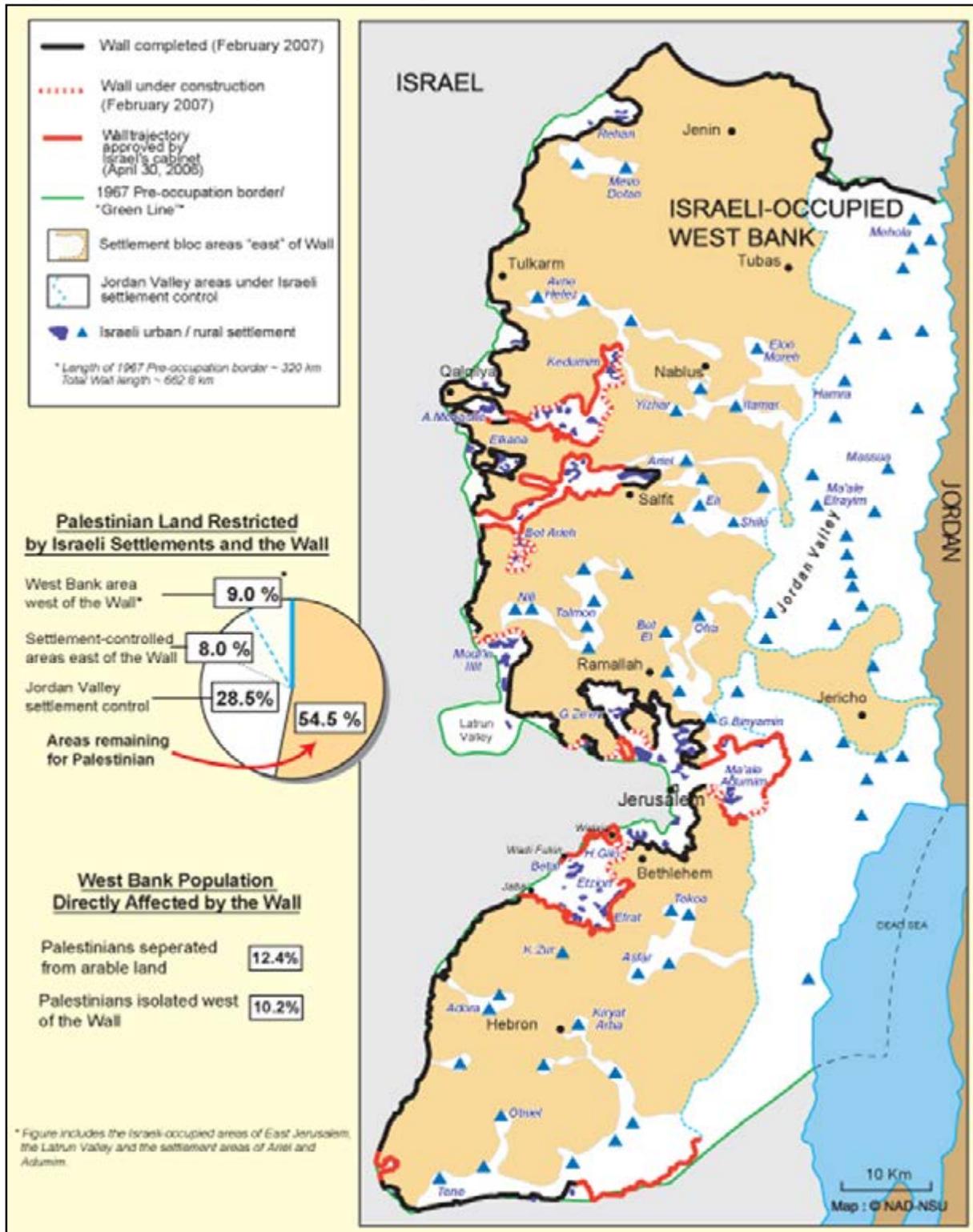
***May we remain faithful
Until Justice rolls down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.***

***May we be willing to be the answer to the prayers we pray.
Amen,
and so be it."***

Thank you for coming and stay strong in your commitment to action.



Appendix: Map of Occupied West Bank



Appendix: Stages of Detention for Palestinian Children

PALESTINIAN CHILDREN IN ISRAELI MILITARY DETENTION

STAGES OF DETENTION

NO WAY TO A CHILD
www.nowaytoachild.org

Arrest

Israel forces arrest children from their homes in the middle of the night, at demonstrations, or near military infrastructures such as checkpoints and the separation barrier.

From the moment of arrest, nearly 3 out of 4 Palestinian children experience some form of physical violence.

This typically consists of being slapped, punched, kicked, or struck with a soldier's helmet or rifle.

Transfer

Once a child has been arrested, they are typically bound, blindfolded, and forced into a military vehicle.

In the vehicle, children are often subject to physical violence and verbal abuse.

The transfer period can last anywhere from several minutes to several hours.

The child is not told where they are being taken.

Interrogation

Children are most often interrogated at a police station or an interrogation center. They arrive bound, blindfolded, frightened, and sleep deprived.

Interrogation techniques are mentally and physically coercive.

Children have no right to an attorney during interrogation.

In 97% of cases, children are denied access to a parent during interrogation.

Hearing

Children appear before an Israeli military court within 24 to 96 hours of their arrest, depending on their age.

This hearing is the first time children will see their attorney and parents since their arrest.

The overwhelming majority of Palestinian children are held in custodial pretrial detention.

Hearings are conducted in Hebrew with Arabic translation.

Sentence

There are three parts to a military court sentence: imprisonment, a fine, and a suspended sentence.

About half of child detainees will receive a custodial sentence of 3 to 12 months. Depending on the circumstances, some receive longer sentences of 1 to 3 years.

No person under age 12 can be prosecuted in the military courts.



EACH YEAR THE ISRAELI MILITARY ARRESTS AND PROSECUTES AN ESTIMATED 700 PALESTINIAN CHILDREN. FROM ARREST, PALESTINIAN CHILDREN ENCOUNTER ILL-TREATMENT & TORTURE AT THE HANDS OF ISRAELI FORCES. THREE OUT OF FOUR EXPERIENCE SOME FORM OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE FOLLOWING ARREST.

The No Way to Treat a Child campaign seeks to challenge Israel's prolonged military occupation of Palestinians by exposing widespread and systematic ill-treatment of Palestinian children in the Israeli military detention system. It is a project of Defense for Children International - Palestine and American Friends Service Committee.

SOURCES *See No Way to Treat a Child: Palestinian Children in the Israeli Military Detention System* (2018), <http://nowaytoachild.org/press-releases>; *Children in Israel Military Detention: Observations and Recommendations* (2013), <http://www.ice.dhs.gov/files/press/pr/press/1/1/13178main1.asp>; *Children in Israeli Military Detention*

Appendix: Resources

Websites

No Way to Treat a Child (NWTTAC)

<https://nwtac.dci-palestine.org/about>

Imprisoning a Generation

www.anemoia.net

United Nations Rights of the Child

www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/children

Videos

Created by No Way to Treat a Child:

- Detaining Dreams
www.youtube.com/watch?v=7rw69pLiLqw
- Study Guide for Detaining Dreams
https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/dcipalestine/pages/1926/attachments/original/1501709437/Detaining_Dreams_Study_Guide_NWTTAC.pdf?1501709437
- Night Raid Photo Exhibit
<https://vimeo.com/116772944>
- Defence for Children International - Palestine
www.facebook.com/pg/DCIPS/videos - short videos
- DCI-P YouTube channel
www.youtube.com/user/DCIPS
- *Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: The Danger of a Single Story*
www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story?...en
- Imprisoning a Generation
www.anemoia.net
(available for screening through a licensing agreement with United Church of Canada)

Articles and Reports

A variety of materials are available here: www.nwttac.canada.dci-palestine.org

- Minors in Jeopardy
- Children in Israeli military detention – 2013 report
- Children in Israeli military detention – 2015 report
- No Way to Treat a Child – 2016 report
- No Way to Treat a Child Report – case study
- Children in Israeli military detention, UNICEF – report

Other Resources

- **Stages of Detention**
Email justice@united-church.ca for more printed postcards. (Infographic from NWTTAC website and printed postcard versions).
- **Radical Discipleship reflection**
<https://radicaldiscipleship.net/2018/09/10/sit>

Resources are available for the Mission & Service supported campaign: *No Way to Treat a Child*. Order postcards that your faith community can send to their local MPs asking them to raise concerns about the abuse of Palestinian children by the Israeli military detention system.

For more information, please go to:

www.united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/israeli-military-detention-no-way-treat-child

To order these resources please email justice@united-church.ca or call 1-800-268-3781 or 416-231-7680 x4025

Postcards

