



A joint project of:  
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## NO WAY TO TREAT A CHILD-CANADA

### ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN

Palestinian children have the right to a safe and just future. The *No Way to Treat a Child* campaign believes the American and Canadian governments must take concrete steps toward this future by holding Israeli authorities accountable for violations of Palestinian children's rights.

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 (DCIP) and American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). Over the last three years, we have grown from a small group of activists in Chicago to a nationwide US-based movement, and are now expanding efforts to Canada.

» Read our story: <http://bit.ly/NWTTACourstory>

### VISION AND MISSION

The *No Way to Treat a Child* campaign is committed to securing a just and viable future for Palestinian children living in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and envisions a world where all children attain rights in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international standards.

The *No Way to Treat a Child* campaign implements an integrative approach that incorporates the use of the international human rights framework and movement building to advance the rights and protection of Palestinian children.

The *No Way to Treat a Child* campaign seeks to challenge Israel's prolonged military occupation of Palestinians by organizing and supporting an extensive network of people demanding immediate protections for Palestinian children held in Israeli military detention where ill-treatment and torture is widespread, systematic, and institutionalized.

### THE ISSUES

Palestinian children in the West Bank, like adults, face arrest, prosecution, and imprisonment under an Israeli military detention system that denies them basic rights.

Since 1967, Israel has operated two separate legal systems in the same territory. In the occupied West Bank, Israeli settlers are subject to the civilian and criminal legal system whereas Palestinians live under military law. Israel applies civilian criminal law to Palestinian children in East Jerusalem. No Israeli child comes into contact with the military courts.

Israel has the dubious distinction of being the only country in the world that systematically prosecutes between 500 and 700 children in military courts each year. Ill-treatment in the Israeli military detention system remains "widespread, systematic, and institutionalized throughout the process," according to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) report *Children in Israeli Military Detention Observations and Recommendations*.

DCIP collected affidavits from 429 West Bank children detained between 2012 and 2015 that show three-quarters of them endured some form of physical violence following arrest. In 97 percent of the cases, children had no parent present during the interrogation or access to legal counsel. Israeli police also did not properly inform them of their rights in 84 percent of the cases.

Recent amendments to Israeli military law concerning children have had little to no impact on their treatment during the first 24 to 48 hours after an arrest, when most of the ill-treatment occurs at the hands of Israeli soldiers, police, and the security service.

» Read DCIP's latest report on military detention: <http://bit.ly/29W41mB>

## **OBJECTIVES**

The *No Way to Treat a Child* campaign is focused on working toward five specific objectives:

1. To support and strengthen leading Palestinian and Israeli human rights advocates who are working to enlist American and Canadian leaders in their efforts to end human rights violations against Palestinian children;
2. To encourage American and Canadian religious, human and civil rights, and academic leaders to understand the human rights violations against Palestinian children, through the lens of their communities' shared values;
3. To activate American and Canadian religious, human and civil rights, and academic leadership in ways that increase accountability for the rights violations against Palestinian children;
4. To advocate for American and Canadian policymakers to take a proactive role in the safeguarding the rights of Palestinian children and ending Israeli military occupation of Palestinians living in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip; and
5. To grow an engaged online community that can be mobilized to demand freedom, dignity, and justice for Palestinian children.

## **CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP**

The *No Way to Treat a Child* campaign is coordinated by American Friends Service Committee and Defense for Children International - Palestine, and includes a network of autonomous organizations committed to shared decision making to influence US and Canada-based audiences and policy makers in an effort to secure a just and viable future for Palestinian children living in the Occupied Palestinian Territory where all children attain rights in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international standards.

### ***About Defense for Children International - Palestine***

Defense for Children International - Palestine is an independent, local Palestinian child rights organization based in Ramallah dedicated to defending and promoting the rights of children living in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. For over 25 years, we have investigated, documented and pursued accountability for grave human rights violations against children; held Israeli and Palestinian authorities accountable to universal human rights principles; and advocated at the international and national levels to advance access to justice and protection for children. We also provide direct legal aid to children in distress. For more information visit [www.dci-palestine.org](http://www.dci-palestine.org).

### ***About the American Friends Service Committee***

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) works for policies that reflect a cooperative search for solutions to protect our planet, reduce violent conflict, advance social justice, and meet global needs. Since 1948, AFSC has worked with Palestinians, Israelis, and the international community to realize a just and lasting peace between Palestinians and Israelis. In the United States AFSC works to educate audiences about Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory and supports activist efforts to change government policies and corporate/institutional practices that support inequality and the ongoing Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territory. AFSC also supports the implementation of international humanitarian and human rights law in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory, promotes implementation of Palestinian refugees' right of return, and calls for full equality between Palestinians and Israelis.

» For more information on the campaign visit, [www.nowaytotreatachild.org](http://www.nowaytotreatachild.org)