

Since 2007, a UNICEF-led working group has consolidated efforts to report on the impact of armed conflict on children in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). Members of the working group include: Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights, Save the Children, DCI-Palestine, B'Tselem, Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, War Child Holland, OCHA, OHCHR, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNRWA and WHO. The violations include killing and injuries, arrest and detention, ill-treatment and torture, recruitment and use of children by armed forces and groups, attacks on schools and hospitals, displacement and denial of humanitarian access including access to health and education. The bulletin is published on a bi-monthly basis highlighting trends and patterns in grave violations against children during the reporting period.

## KILLINGS AND INJURIES

In January and February, three Palestinian children were killed (1 girl and 2 boys) and 64 Palestinian children (58 boys and 6 girls) were injured, including twelve children under the age of 12. This represents a 19 per cent increase in the number of children injured from the last reporting period (52 children in November and December 2010). No Israeli children were reported killed or injured.

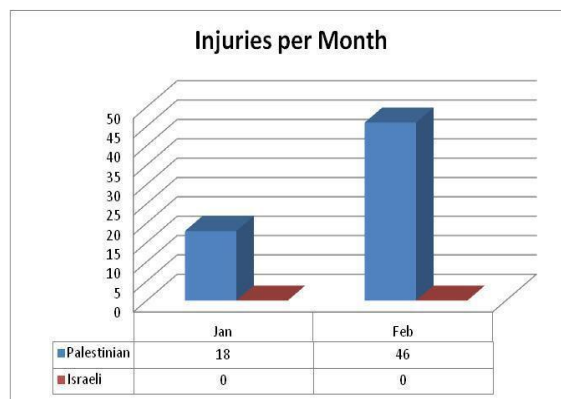
Nationality	Violation	Region	Jan	Feb	Total
Palestinian	Killing	Gaza	1	1	2
		West Bank	1	0	1
	Injuries	Gaza	3	13	16
		West Bank	15	33	48
Israeli	Killing		0	0	0
	Injuries		0	0	0

In Gaza, two children were **killed** by explosive objects. One 12-year-old girl was killed when an explosive device detonated prematurely. Local reports indicate that militants from the Popular Resistance Committees, a Palestinian armed group, were preparing the explosive device when it detonated. The second child, a 13-year-old boy, was killed by a UXO in Rafah. In the West Bank, a 15-year-old boy was shot and killed by Israeli settlers from Bat Ayin Settlement while he was working on his family's land in Beit Ummar village near Hebron.

Forty-four Palestinian children were **injured** by Israeli security forces engaged in military activities during the reporting period, including 19 children in the Silwan neighbourhood of East Jerusalem. Other injuries include 10 children injured by Israeli security forces during Palestinian civil society demonstrations. Five children were injured in settler-related violence in the West Bank, including a 17-year-old boy from the village of Jalud who was returning home from farming his family's land when he was shot in the chest by a settler from Kida settlement close to Nablus. An additional 3 children between 3 and 11 years were injured when run over by settler vehicles in the West Bank.

Two children were injured by a UXO in Gaza. An unidentified Palestinian Armed Group fired a rocket that dropped short and injured one child when it exploded on a house in Gaza. Four children were shot by Israeli military forces or hit by shrapnel while collecting gravel and scrap metal in the Gaza Buffer Zone.

Twenty-five per cent of the injuries took place in Gaza and seventy-five per cent in the West Bank; 40 per cent of these occurred in the East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Silwan. The number of children injured during clashes between Palestinians and Israeli security forces in Silwan in the context of settler activities remains high.



Number of children injured by nationality in January and February (source: OCHA)

## ARREST AND DETENTION

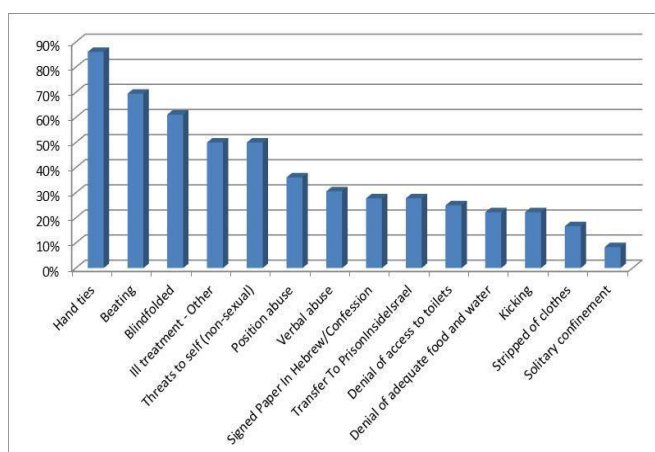
There were 221 Palestinian boys between the ages of 12-17 years in Israeli detention at the end of February. This represents an increase in the number of detained children for the first time in five months (between August and December 2010, the number of detained children decreased by 26 per cent). There were 34 children detained between the ages of 12 to 15 at the end of January 2011, an increase of twelve per cent from December 2010 (30 children). One boy who had spent almost 12 months in administrative detention was released on 3 January 2011. As a result, no children are currently held in administrative detention.

**Number of Palestinian children in Israeli detention (Source: DCI Palestine detention bulletin, Feb. 2011)**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2008	327	307	325	327	337	323	324	293	304	297	327	342
2009	389	423	420	391	346	355	342	339	326	325	306	305
2010	318	343	342	335	305	291	284	286	269	256	228	213
2011	222	221										

## ILL-TREATMENT AND TORTURE

Thirty-six cases of ill-treatment of Palestinian children by the Israeli security forces were documented during arrest, interrogation and detention during the reporting period and in some cases this treatment amounts to torture. Fourteen cases involved Palestinian children in East Jerusalem. In 31 cases children reported the use of hand-ties, 25 children reported beatings, 22 children were blindfolded, 18 children reported threats to self, 13 children reported position abuse, 8 children reported being kicked, 8 were denied adequate food and water, and 3 children were kept in solitary confinement.



In all instances where affidavits were taken, children reported ill-treatment and torture. Ten children reported being transferred to prisons inside Israel in contravention of the Geneva Conventions. One boy reported sexual assault during interrogation and one boy reported that the Israeli interrogator attempted to recruit him as an informant.

On 1 February 2011 Odai, a 10-year-old boy from the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Silwan was arrested by Israeli soldiers at 5:00 am and accused of throwing stones. He recalls being awakened to the sound of banging on the front door with people saying: "Open up, it's the army". Odai's mother went to the door while he and his 12-year-old sister, Muna, stood behind her. About ten Israeli soldiers were waiting outside. They did not say why they were arresting Odai or where they were taking him. His hands were tied from the front and he was taken to a military vehicle. One of the soldiers started questioning him, and then threatened him: "We'll take you to Al Mascobiyya and let the police beat you until you tell us what you did". Odai reported being "very scared". The soldier sitting next to him pulled his hair and blew into his face to intimidate him. On arrival at Al Mascobiyya, his hands were untied and he was detained with two adults. He says he woke up several hours later as a policeman "screamed" his name, and was taken for interrogation. His grandfather was allowed to attend, in accordance with Israeli civilian law. He was accused of throwing stones – an accusation he denies – and released on a bond of NIS 5,000 (US \$1,400).

Source: DCI Palestine-Detention Bulletin February 2011

## RECRUITMENT AND USE OF CHILDREN BY ARMED FORCES AND GROUPS

No incidents reported.

## DISPLACEMENT

In January and February, 96 Palestinian structures were demolished in Area 'C' and East Jerusalem of the West Bank, including 32 homes and other structures. As a result, 175 people, including 83 children lost their homes. Another 260 people, including 140 children were otherwise affected by the demolitions which caused community displacement and threat to livelihood.

## ATTACKS AND DAMAGE TO SCHOOLS

There were five attacks documented during the reporting period that resulted in damage to schools, including the demolition of a classroom during school hours, carried out by Israeli security forces using bulldozers. The classroom served 15 fifth grade students in the Bedouin refugee community of Dkaika in South Hebron. In Gaza, two schools were damaged in the course of Israeli airstrikes targeting nearby areas, resulting in the closure of one of the schools for 2 days.

In addition, a demolition order was issued against a tent used as a schoolyard for children in the Al Nabi Samuel School and a stop-work order against a school in the village of Ar Ramadin in the Hebron Governorate.

## DENIAL OF HUMANITARIAN ACCESS / IMPACT OF THE CONFLICT ON ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES

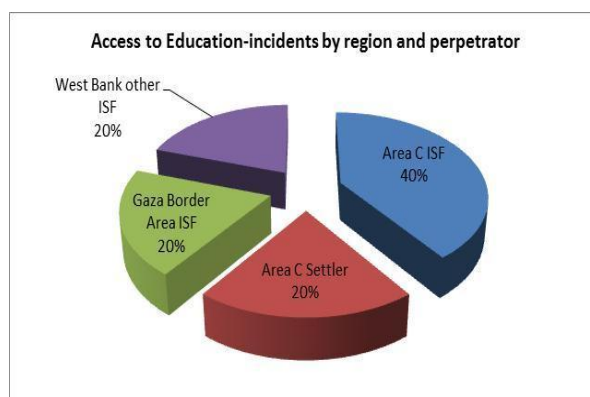
### Access to healthcare

Children in need of specialized medical care outside of Gaza continue to face severe and at times fatal access restrictions. As of February 2011, 584 out of 635 applications were approved for children to cross Erez for medical treatment outside of Gaza. Fifty applications were delayed, and one was denied. Delays and denials in processing applications can be life-threatening for child patients who are waiting for urgent medical treatment.

For more information on the referral of patients from the Gaza strip see: [http://issuu.com/who-opt/docs/update\\_rad\\_january\\_2011](http://issuu.com/who-opt/docs/update_rad_january_2011) OR [http://issuu.com/who-opt/docs/update\\_rad\\_february\\_2011](http://issuu.com/who-opt/docs/update_rad_february_2011)

### Access to education

Five incidents were documented in which children were denied access to education and/or harassed or shot on their way to school or in their school. These include the shooting and injury of a child by Israeli security forces during a village raid when the security forces took position in front of a secondary school and fired at a number of children who reportedly threw stones at them. Other incidents include an attack on school children by masked settlers. Access to education was disrupted by the repeated delay of the Israeli military escort that protects Palestinian children from settler violence on their way to school in At-Tuwani village, and by Israeli military gunfire which caused the evacuation of two schools in the West Bank.



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