

A joint project of Defense for Children International – Palestine and American Friends Service Committee t. +1 (646) 912-8093

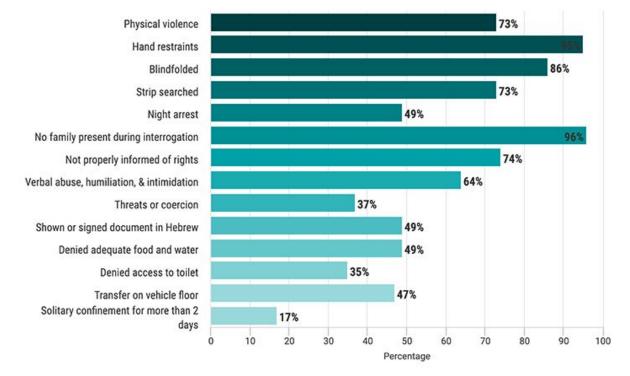
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H.R. 2407 and Palestinian children in Israeli military detention

- H.R. 2407 is the second piece of legislation introduced by Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN-04) highlighting ill-treatment against Palestinian children by Israeli forces.
- The groundbreaking legislation H.R. 4391 or the "Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military <u>Detention of Palestinian Children Act</u>" was introduced on November 14, 2017 and garnered support from a total of 31 members of Congress by the end of the 115th Congress.
- Children make up around 45 percent of the 2.9 million Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank,
 all of whom live under a separate and unequal Israeli military law framework.
- Regardless of guilt or innocence or the gravity of an alleged offense, children in conflict with the law
 are entitled to special protections and all due process rights under international human rights law
 and international humanitarian law.
- Ill-treatment is **widespread and institutionalized** in the Israeli military detention system, and the Israeli military court system has been found to **lack basic fair trial protections** and guarantees.
- Since 2000, at least **10,000 Palestinian children** have been detained by Israeli forces from the occupied West Bank and held in Israeli military detention.
- Children often give confessions after **verbal abuse**, **threats**, **physical and psychological violence** that in some cases amounts to torture.
- Nearly **three out of four** Palestinian children experience some form of **physical violence** after arrest.
- Palestinian child detainees have no right to an attorney during interrogation under Israeli military law, and 96 percent of children have no parent present during interrogation.
- U.S. financial assistance to Israel that is used to support ill-treatment of Palestinian child detainees
 violates existing U.S. law, specifically the "Leahy laws," and also aids Israeli violations of international
 humanitarian law and international human rights law.
- H.R. 2407 seeks to promote justice, equality and human rights for children globally by prohibiting any
 U.S. foreign military aid from supporting "the military detention, interrogation, abuse, or ill-treatment of children in violation of international humanitarian law."
- The bill amends Section 620M of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2378d), commonly known as the "Leahy Law," by adding a new subsection that includes a generally applicable limitation prohibiting U.S. military aid from being used by foreign armed forces to support the military detention, interrogation, abuse, or ill-treatment of children in violation of international humanitarian law.
- The obligation is on U.S. actors to **ensure no taxpayer funds further these practices**. Israeli authorities are free to continue using torture and the other prohibited practices listed in H.R. 2407.
- » For more information, go to www.nowaytotreatachild.org or www.dci-palestine.org.

Ill-treatment of Palestinian child detainees by Israeli forces

Israel prosecutes between 500 and 700 Palestinian children in a military court system each year that lacks basic fair trial guarantees and is notorious for widespread, systematic, and institutionalized ill-treatment of Palestinian child detainees. Defense for Children International - Palestine (DCIP) collected 739 sworn affidavits from Palestinian children detained by Israeli forces from the occupied West Bank between 2013 and 2018. The data below shows the types of ill-treatment reported by these children.



Source: Defense for Children International - Palestine (DCIP)