

PALESTINIAN CHILDREN IN ISRAELI MILITARY DETENTION

STAGES OF DETENTION



Arrest

Israeli 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, 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, with a clear purpose of obtaining a confession.

In the vast majority of cases, children are denied access to legal counsel prior to and during interrogation.



Hearing

Children appear before an Israeli military court within 24 to 72 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 AROUND **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.