

# QUICK FACTS :

## *Palestinian Children & the Israeli Occupation*

*And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me.'*

**Matthew 25:40**

For five decades, millions of Palestinian children have grown up under Israel's brutal military occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza. These children live every day not knowing when their homes may be destroyed, or when they or their families will be harassed, imprisoned, injured, or killed by Israeli soldiers and settlers. Inevitably, many Palestinian children in the occupied territories face life with despair and hopelessness.

## DEATH • INJURY • DESTRUCTION

**28** Palestinian children were killed by Israeli soldiers and civilians in the first half of 2023. *Accountability for these deaths is virtually non-existent.*

In 2022, at least **34** Palestinian children in the West Bank were killed.

At least **540** Palestinian children were killed and over **3,000** were injured by Israel's 50-day assault on the Gaza Strip in the summer of 2014.

**Half a million** in Gaza, roughly 50% of them children, have lost their homes in Israeli bombardments that also destroyed dozens of schools. Due to Israel's brutal blockade of Gaza, very little can be rebuilt.

Since 2000, an estimated **13,000** Palestinian children have been detained by Israeli forces from the occupied West Bank and held in the Israeli military detention system. (See more on page 2.)



### *Childhood essentials under threat:*

- physical security
- emotional stability
- adequate nutrition
- education
- healthcare
- safe water

*Every day, Palestinian children are confronted by Israeli soldiers in full combat gear, an act of violence in itself.*



## Living with TRAUMA

**Over 50%** of Palestinian children have experienced **high-magnitude trauma**: bombings, personal injuries, imprisonment, death of family members, and home demolitions.

**82%** of Palestinian children suffer moderate to acute levels of **Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)**

## Living in POVERTY

**25% or more** of Palestinian families under occupation live in poverty; **78%** in East Jerusalem.

**2.3 million** Palestinians need humanitarian aid and **1.6 million** suffer from food insecurity.

# 9 Facts on Treatment of Palestinian Children



1. **Three out of four** Palestinian children arrested by Israeli forces suffer physical violence. They are often **blindfolded, handcuffed, and verbally and physically abused**, from the moment of their arrest.
2. Children are often arrested during **terrifying night raids** of their homes. Their **parents don't know** where they will be taken or when they will return.

3. They are taken illegally from occupied Palestinian territory into Israel and often have **no family visits**; to enter Israel parents must have a permit that can take months to obtain.
4. Most of these child prisoners have **no access to lawyers and no adult protection** when they are interrogated.
5. Many children are **threatened** with reprisals against their families, **beaten**, and **tortured**, to force them to confess or agree to become Israeli informants.
6. Many Palestinian child prisoners cannot read or write in Hebrew but are **forced to sign confessions** in Hebrew.
7. Israeli children living in the illegal West Bank settlements are tried in Israeli **civil courts**; *only 6.5 % are convicted*. Palestinian children in the West Bank are tried in Israeli **military courts**; *over 90% are convicted*.
8. The most common charge against Palestinian children is **throwing stones** - defined in the same category as a bullet – and **the maximum sentence is 20 years**.
9. In 2016, Israeli military courts began sentencing children **to years in prison for throwing stones**. *Israeli military law allows imprisonment for any child over 11 years old*.

**Military Courts:** About 700 Palestinian children go through the infamous Israeli military court system every year. Israel is the only country in the world that systematically prosecutes children in military courts – and *only Palestinian children*. These courts fail to uphold fundamental rights to a fair trial.



A Moment of Truth وقفه حق

*Palestinian Christians' profound statement of faith and urgent call to action*

“The absence of any vision or spark of hope for peace and freedom pushes young people, both Muslim and Christian, to emigrate. Thus the land is deprived of its most important and richest resource....”

“Our question to our brothers and sisters in the Churches today is: **Are you able to help us get our freedom back?** For this is the only way you can help the two peoples attain justice, peace, security and love.”

## 3 Things You Can Do

at our website: [KairosResponse.org](http://KairosResponse.org):

1. **SIGN UP** for UMKR monthly news, to support campaigns for Palestinian children.
2. **LEARN & TEACH**: learn more with our resources and share them in your church and community.
3. **SUPPORT** UMKR's boycott, divestment and other campaigns for Palestinian human rights

Learn more about the plight of Palestinian children: [www.NoWayToTreatAChild.org](http://www.NoWayToTreatAChild.org)



**United Methodists for Kairos Response (UMKR)** is an international grassroots justice movement responding to *Kairos Palestine: A Moment of Truth*, an urgent call from Christians in the Holy Land for effective action to end the Israeli occupation and achieve a just peace in the Holy Land. UMKR seeks – through nonviolent action and in partnership with Palestinian Christians – freedom, justice, and equality for all Palestinians and Israelis. Visit us at [KairosResponse.org](http://KairosResponse.org)