



# JVP ACTION

## Protecting Palestinian Children & Families

### H.R. 2590 Defending the Human Rights of Palestinian Children & Families Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act

The U.S. government currently sends \$3.8 billion in annual military funding to the Israeli government, supporting its oppression of Palestinians. The **Palestinian Children & Families Act (H.R. 2590)** works to ensure U.S. taxpayer funds are not used by the Israeli government to imprison Palestinian children in a military detention system, forcibly displace Palestinians from their homes and property, or further annex Palestinian land in violation of international law. Endorsed by over **140 civil society organizations**, H.R. 2590 promotes human rights, provides desperately needed government accountability and transparency, and helps create the conditions for justice and freedom for all.

#### Palestinian Children & Families Deserve Safety

The Israeli military detains around 700 Palestinian children every year in a military court system that denies them their most basic human rights. Nearly three out of four children experience physical violence following their arrest. Children are arrested without warrants, and are interrogated by Israeli soldiers without a lawyer or parent present. This **systemic, widespread, and institutional** abuse is well-documented by the U.S. State Department, Human Rights Watch, and UNICEF, as well as Palestinian and Israeli human rights organizations.

Israel routinely destroys Palestinian homes in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem, leaving thousands of Palestinians homeless. Israel's demolition of Palestinian homes and eviction of Palestinian families has become even more severe and dire during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the Office for the Coordination for Humanitarian Affairs, during 2020 alone—as the pandemic raged—Israel demolished or seized 851 Palestinian homes or properties, displacing more than 1,000 people, including 524 children. The now well-known case of Sheikh Jarrah, where Israel plans to force

hundreds of Palestinian families out of their homes so that Israeli settlers can move in, is just one example of Israel's use of forced displacement to systematically **dispossesses Palestinians of their land**.

Every day, in direct violation of international law, Israel annexes more and more land in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem, devastating the Palestinian economy, cutting off Palestinians' access to their farmland and water, and separating Palestinians from their loved ones. Israel has shown time and again that it will continue building settlements despite verbal objections from members of the U.S. government. It is clear that Congress must do more..

#### Become A Co-Sponsor of H.R. 2590

Promoting human rights and dignity for all Palestinians and Israelis should be a central foreign policy priority for the U.S. This must include pressuring the Israeli government to uphold international law by ensuring no U.S. funds are used to violate Palestinian human rights. H.R. 2590 helps build the path toward government accountability, human rights, and a future of safety and justice for all people.