

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, their parents or siblings 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

32 Palestinian children were killed by Israeli soldiers and civilians in 2016. *Accountability for such crimes is virtually non-existent: only 1 incident resulted in an indictment.*

In 2015, **30** children were killed and **over 1,700** were injured.

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 Gazans lost their homes in the 2014 Israeli assault that destroyed **20,000** homes and dozens of schools; due to Israel's blockade of Gaza, very little has been rebuilt. **50% of Gaza's population are children.**

The homes of **772** children were demolished in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, just in 2016. Since 1967, **tens of thousands** of homes have been destroyed due to the Israeli occupation.



Childhood essentials under threat:

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

Every day, Palestinian children are exposed to and often 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.

10 Facts on Child Detention & Imprisonment



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. 136 children **from 7 to 11-years-old** (*under the age of criminal responsibility*) were arrested in 2015.
3. **Over 90%** of Palestinian children taken to court are convicted, while **only 6.5%** of Israeli children in the West Bank settlements are convicted.

4. Children are often arrested during **terrifying night raids** of their homes. Their **parents don't know** where they will be taken or if and when they will return.
5. They are illegally taken out of occupied territory into Israel and therefore often have **no family visits**; to enter Israel parents must have a permit that can take months to obtain.
6. These child prisoners have **no access to lawyers and no adult protection** when they are interrogated.
7. Many children are **threatened** with reprisals against their families, **beaten, and tortured**, to force them to confess or agree to become Israeli informants.
8. They are **forced to sign confessions** in Hebrew, a language they do not understand.
9. The most common charge against Palestinian children is **throwing stones** (a stone is defined by the army as a dangerous projectile in the **same category as a bullet**); in 2015, Israel raised **the maximum sentence to 20 years**.
10. 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: 500 to 700

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



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

All at our website: KairosResponse.org:

1. **SIGN UP** for UMKR news & alerts, so you can support campaigns for Palestinian children.
2. **LEARN & TEACH**: get fact sheets and study materials to share in your church & community.
3. Help to end the occupation: **SUPPORT UMKR's boycott, divestment and other campaigns**: nonviolent and effective advocacy tools that are already having an impact!

Learn more about the plight of Palestinian children: www.NoWayToTreatAChild.org



United Methodists for Kairos Response (UMKR) is an international grassroots peace movement responding to Palestinian Christians' urgent call, in *Kairos Palestine: A Moment of Truth*, 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 our Palestinian sisters and brothers in Christ – freedom, justice and equality for all Palestinians and Israelis.

1. Subscribe 2. Learn & Teach 3. Take Action: KairosResponse.org