

# Detention Bulletin

## January 2010



Defence for Children International/Palestine Section  
الحركة العالمية للدفاع عن الأطفال / فرع فلسطين

### January 2010

- 318 children detained
- 44 aged 12-15
- No girls in detention
- No children in administrative detention

*'Jailers came and took me to solitary confinement. They tied my hands to the bed for three days.'*

U.E. (13 years)



Boy arrested by Israeli soldiers. Photo credit: BBC

### January 2010 - overview

There were **318 Palestinian children detained** in Israeli prisons and temporary detention centres at the end of January 2010. This represents a 4% increase compared with the previous month and the first rise in the child detention figures in six months.

There were **44 young children** aged 12-15 detained at the end of January 2010, a slight increase (two children) compared with the previous month.

There are currently **no Palestinian girls** in Israeli detention facilities and no Palestinian children in Israeli **administrative detention**.

**Military Order 1644** purporting to establish a juvenile military court has now been in operation for four months. However, DCI-Palestine lawyers have noticed few substantive changes to the practice and procedure in the military courts as a result of this order.

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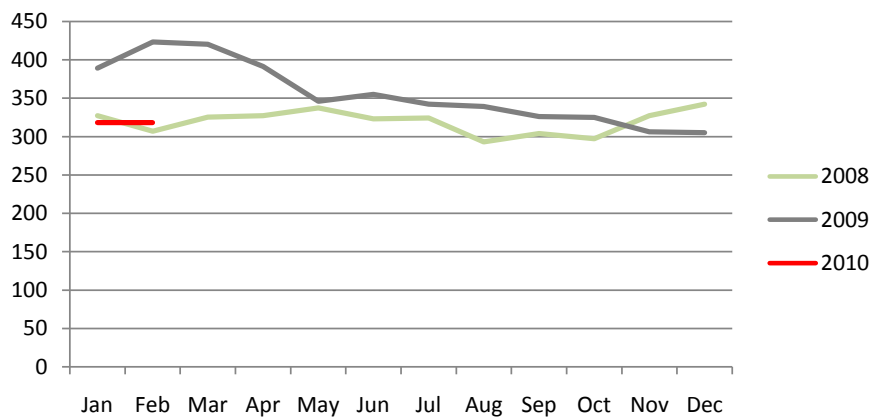
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Number of Palestinian children in Israeli detention: Jan 2008 - Jan 2010

## JANUARY 2010 IN FIGURES

Each year approximately 700 Palestinian children, some as young as 12 years, are detained and prosecuted in the Israeli military court system.

The most common charge is for throwing stones. The overwhelming majority of these children are detained inside Israel in contravention of Article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

### Total

According to the latest figures compiled by DCI-Palestine from sources including the Israeli Prison Service and Israeli army detention facilities, there were 318 Palestinian children detained in Israeli prisons and temporary detention centres inside Israel and the OPT at the end of January 2010. This represents a 4% increase compared with the previous month and the first rise in the child detention figures in six months.

### Total number of Palestinian children in Israeli detention at the end of each month since Jan 2008 - Note: These figures are not cumulative

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Aver.
2008	327	307	325	327	337	323	324	293	304	297	327	342	319
2009	389	423	420	391	346	355	342	339	326	325	306	305	355
2010	318												

### 12-15 year olds

DCI-Palestine remains concerned by the high number of young children between the ages of 12 and 15 being detained. At the end of January 2010, 44 children in this age category were being held in Israeli detention facilities, a slight increase (two children) compared with the previous month.

### Number of young (12-15) Palestinians in Israeli detention at the end of each month since January 2008 - Note: These figures are not cumulative

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Aver.
2008	38	40	45	39	37	34	33	21	23	23	25	30	32
2009	50	54	53	47	39	47	42	39	40	44	41	42	44
2010	44												

### Girls in detention

There are currently no Palestinian girls in Israeli detention facilities.

### Number of Palestinian girls in Israeli detention at the end of each month since January 2008 - Note: These figures are not cumulative

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Aver.
2008	2	3	3	4	3	6	6	5	6	6	5	7	4.7
2009	5	7	6	6	6	5	4	3	3	0	0	0	3.8
2010	0												

### Administrative detention

There are currently no Palestinian children in Israeli administrative detention. However, there are still two young adults being detained who were children when they received their administrative detention orders (Mohammad Baran ([UA 3/09](#)) and Rami Shilbayieh).

### Number of Palestinian children held in Israeli administrative detention at the end of each month since January 2008 - Note: These figures are not cumulative

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Aver.
2008	18	3	13	12	10	13	13	13	11	8	5	6	10
2009	5	6	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1.8
2010	0												

## Case summaries

Lawyers and fieldworkers for DCI-Palestine collect sworn affidavits from Palestinian children in prison and upon their release.

These affidavits are taken in Arabic and further reviewed by trained staff to determine appropriate follow up action.

Each year, around 100 of these affidavits are translated into English from which these brief case summaries are produced.

Additional case summaries are available upon request.

*'He wrapped a piece of cloth all around my head and started banging it against the wall.'*

M.Q. (15 years)

*'One of them shouted at me to take off all my clothes. I became very scared of him and did what he ordered me to. He searched my clothes while I was naked as the day I was born. "You'll be interrogated and if you don't confess, I'll f\*\*k you," he said.'*

U.E. (13 years)

## H.S.

**On 30 December 2009, a 15-year-old boy from Al 'Arrub refugee camp, Hebron is arrested and accused of throwing stones.**

At 6:00pm H.S. was coming home from a bakery with a friend when he was surrounded by Israeli soldiers and accused of throwing stones – denied accusation – hands tied behind back and blindfolded – beaten all over body – thrown in the back of a jeep and injured leg – stripped down to underwear and ordered to climb up and down a hill for three hours – transferred to Etzion Interrogation and Detention Centre – interrogated – untied and blindfold removed – accused of throwing stones – denied accusation – hit repeatedly on the back and the back of the head with a broom stick – interrogated for three hours – signed papers in Hebrew – transferred to Ofer Prison – strip searched – felt upset and embarrassed – placed in detention cell with adults – charged with throwing stones, empty bottles and membership of Fateh – transferred to Remonim prison (Telmond Compound), inside Israel, in contravention of Article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

## M.Q.

**On 6 January 2010, a 15-year-old boy from the Al 'Arrub refugee camp, Hebron is arrested and accused of throwing stones.**

At around 2:00am, Israeli soldiers arrest M.Q. from his family home – hands tied behind back and blindfolded – placed in a military jeep – transferred to Etzion Interrogation and Detention Centre – made to sit on the ground for two hours – hit by passing male and female soldiers – asked to have hand ties loosened but slapped across the face instead – interrogated next morning – verbally threatened – *'Spill out everything or I'll call Abu Khalil and let him shove a stick into your ass, you'll see your dead father if you don't talk because I'll send you to the grave,'* – accused of throwing stones – denied the accusation – pushed and hit – cloth tied around his head and then banged repeatedly against the wall – turned and spun around many times – made to sit on the floor and kicked whilst tied and blindfolded – provided a confession – transferred to Ofer Prison – strip searched causing shame – detained with adults – accused of throwing stones and membership of a banned organisation (PFLP).

## U.E.

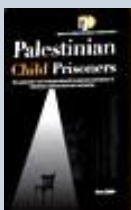
**On 6 January 2010, a 13-year-old boy from the Al-Jalazun refugee camp, near Ramallah, is arrested for throwing stones at a military jeep at Qalandiya Checkpoint:**

At 3:00pm, U.E. threw two stones at an Israeli military jeep at Qalandiya Checkpoint – one stone hit the jeep's tyre – hands tied with plastic ties and blindfolded – kicked several times on the legs – thrown into the back of a jeep – slapped by soldiers for around five minutes – verbal abuse – *'your sister's a c\*\*t'* – arrived at unknown destination about one-and-a-half hours later – taken to a room, untied and blindfold removed – soldier shouted at U.E. to remove all his clothes – naked – sexual threats – *'You'll be interrogated and if you don't confess, I'll f\*\*k you,'* – afraid and shivering – dressed and taken for interrogation – accused of throwing stones, possession of knife and attempting to stab a soldier – shown a knife – never seen knife before – denied accusations – shouted at – taken outside by a soldier and ordered to remove clothing again – sexual threats – *'I'll take you to the bathroom and f\*\*k you, and take off your clothes by force'* – refused and beaten with barrel of rifle – ordered to sit on the ground for one-and-a-half hours – kicked and slapped by passing soldiers – tied and blindfolded and placed in a jeep – slapped and verbal abuse – *'Your sister's a c\*\*t, lower your head.'* – taken to unknown location and interrogated – interrogator threatened to remove his clothes again – slapped several times – scared – signed confession written in Hebrew – appeared in Ofer Military Court, parents not present – transferred to Ofer Prison and Ramonim Prison inside Israel – held in solitary confinement and tied to bed in Ramonim Prison for three days because he was considered 'dangerous'.

If you wish to take action, then please consider lobbying your elected representatives and demand that pressure be applied on Israeli authorities to cease the practice of mistreating and prosecuting Palestinian children as young as 12 in military courts, and detaining them inside Israel.

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For further information please read DCI-Palestine's latest report on Palestinian child prisoners:



[Palestinian Child Prisoners: The systematic and institutionalised ill-treatment and torture of Palestinian children by Israeli authorities](#)

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The Detention Bulletin is a monthly publication produced by Defence for Children International-Palestine Section. To subscribe, go to [www.dci-pal.org](http://www.dci-pal.org)

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### **'Juvenile Military Courts' – Military Order 1644**

On 29 July 2009, the Israeli military commander in the West Bank, Gadi Shamni, issued Military Order 1644 purporting to establish a juvenile military court. The order came into effect on 1 October 2009, and has now been in operation for four months. Since coming into effect on 1 October 2009, lawyers for DCI-Palestine have noticed few substantive changes to the procedures in the military courts other than that children are now generally (but not always) tried separately from adults. No other significant discernable changes have occurred in the practice or procedure of the military courts in relation to juveniles.

[DCI-Palestine's statement on the first four months of operation of the 'juvenile military court'](#)

### **Other developments**

On 5 January 2010, DCI-Palestine submitted 15 cases to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Palestinian Territories Occupied since 1967. The cases involve children aged 14 and 15, who were arrested and prosecuted in the Israeli military court system in 2009, and accused of throwing stones.

On 6 January 2010, DCI-Palestine submitted 13 cases to the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture for further investigation. The cases relate to the ill-treatment, and in some cases torture, of Palestinian children being held at the notorious Al Jalame Interrogation and Detention Centre near Haifa, in Israel, between February 2008 and March 2009. Children reported being held in 'Cell No. 36' in Al Jalame, in cruel and inhumane conditions.

### **Recommendations**

No child should be prosecuted in military courts which lack comprehensive fair trial and juvenile justice standards. DCI-Palestine recommends that as a minimum safeguard in the light of consistent reports of mistreatment and torture, that the Israeli authorities:

1. Ensure that no child is interrogated in the absence of a lawyer of their choice and family member;
2. Ensure that all interrogations of children are video recorded;
3. Ensure that all evidence suspected of being obtained through ill-treatment or torture be rejected by the military courts;
4. Ensure that all credible allegations of ill-treatment and torture be thoroughly and impartially investigated and those found responsible for such abuse be brought to justice.