

Since 2007, a UNICEF-led working group has consolidated efforts to report on the impact of armed conflict on children in Israel and the State of Palestine. The bulletin is published on a quarterly basis highlighting trends and patterns in grave violations against children.

Members of the working group include: DCI-Palestine, B'Tselem, Médecins du Monde – Suisse, Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, Save the Children, War Child Holland, World Vision, OCHA, OHCHR, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNRWA, UNMAS and WHO.

This edition covers [April, May and June 2016](#).

**Update as of September 2017:** The Principals of Working Group member organizations met in August 2017 and reaffirmed their commitment to continue to generate accurate and reliable data on the situation of children affected by the conflict in Israel and the State of Palestine and to put this data in the public domain for advocacy purposes and to improve the situation of children. They will continue to work to improve the content and format of the CAAC bulletins and implement specific actions to that end. They also agreed to move forward with a similar but distinct 'bulletin approach' on other non-conflict related child rights issues of concern in an effort to ensure a more comprehensive approach to the child rights agenda. They re-affirmed the need for engagement with all concerned parties. UNICEF, as the chair of the Working Group, is also in the process of reaching out to other human rights organizations who may be able to provide additional data on grave child rights violations and, where relevant, will propose their inclusion in the Working Group.

### **MAJOR TRENDS & VIOLATIONS**

A total of 613 incidents were reported in the second quarter of 2016, affecting at least 4,851 children. The situation in the West Bank remained tense, with reported clashes between Israeli security forces and Palestinians on a weekly basis, and a high number of Palestinian children arrested.

A significant decline was noted in the frequency of attacks and alleged attacks by Palestinian minors against Israeli soldiers, settlers or civilians as compared to previous months. This may have contributed to the decreasing number of child casualties during the reporting period.

The number of children in administrative detention (13), as well as in detention, is the highest recorded since early 2010.

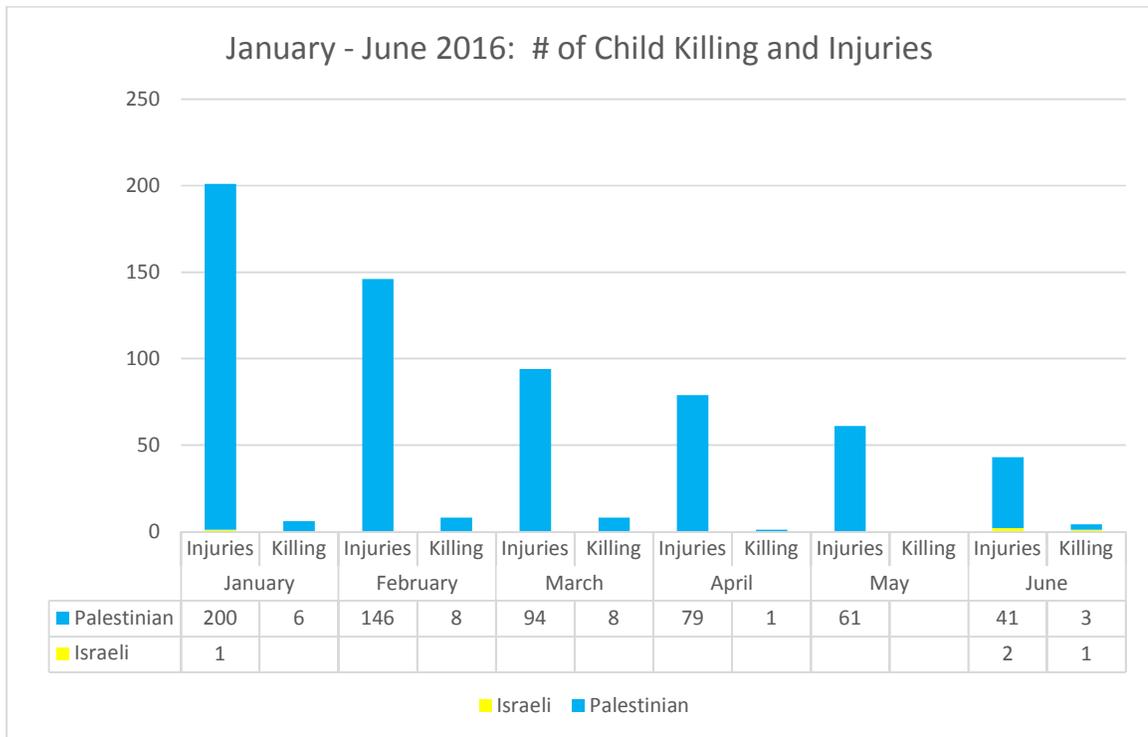
### **KILLINGS AND INJURIES OF CHILDREN**

During the second quarter of 2016, **three Palestinian boys were killed**. This marks a **sharp decrease** compared to the first quarter of the year, when 22 were killed.

**One Israeli girl was killed** in a settlement— in the previous reporting period, no Israeli children were killed.

Between April and June, **181 Palestinian children were injured**, which represents **less than half the number of Palestinian children injured in the first quarter** (440). Most incidents occurred in the **West Bank, including East Jerusalem**. All but 10 children were injured during clashes between Palestinians and Israeli Security Forces (ISF), or during Israeli military operations. One was injured during an alleged stabbing incident against ISF.

**Two Israeli boys were injured** during the reporting period, as compared to one during the first quarter.



Source CAAC database

**WEST BANK**

*Palestinian children killed*

In the second quarter of 2016, **three Palestinian boys, aged 15, 16 and 17, were killed** by live ammunition.

The first of these killings occurred on 27 April, when a 16-year-old and his adult sister (aged 23) were shot dead at Qalandia checkpoint. Eyewitnesses reported that the boy was unarmed and trying to pull his sister back from walking towards the Israeli checkpoint guards. They were both shot at when, despite a number of warnings, the sister threw a knife towards the guards. No medical assistance was reportedly provided for at least 20 minutes. The Israeli police are still investigating the incident at the time of writing.

On 21 June, a second boy, aged 15, was killed (and two other 14-year-old boys wounded) by ISF when riding in a car on a road connecting two Palestinian villages near Highway 443, which connects Jerusalem to Tel Aviv through the West Bank. The Media reported that the boy and several cousins and friends were coming back from the swimming pool when their car was shot at by Israeli soldiers standing on the road above without any warning. Media report that some Palestinians had previously hurled stones in the area. An IDF spokesperson stated that the occupants of the car had been shot 'by mistake' and that an investigation had been launched.

On 30 June, a 16-year-old boy was shot dead by an Israeli settlement guard after he stabbed and killed a 13-year-old Israeli-American girl as she slept inside her home in Kiryat Arba settlement (Hebron).

*Palestinian children injured*

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, **173 Palestinian children aged between 9 and 17 years were injured** (147 boys and 26 girls).

- One hundred fourteen children (111 boys; 3 girls) were injured during clashes between Palestinians and ISF in the context of demonstrations. Of these 113 children, two were injured by live ammunition, 13 were hit by rubber-coated metal bullets, two were physically assaulted, one was hit by a tear gas canister, and 96 suffered from gas inhalation requiring medical treatment.
- Fifty-one children (51 children -- 23 girls; 28 boys) were injured by the ISF during security operations, search and arrest operations and ensuing clashes between Palestinians and the ISF, including in and around refugee camps. Children were injured by live ammunition (7) including one for an alleged stabbing incident, rubber-coated metal bullets (7), tear gas inhalation (31), and physical assault (6).
- Seven boys were injured as a result of violence involving Israeli settlers: five were injured by ISF and two by settlers. Two (2) boys were injured by live ammunition, four were physically assaulted, and one suffered from tear gas inhalation.
- One boy was injured by the shrapnel of an unexploded ordnance (UXO) that exploded in Tammun village while he was cleaning the area where his family raises sheep.

*Israeli children killed and injured*

On 30 June, a **13-year-old Israeli-American girl died following a fatal attack by a 16-year-old Palestinian boy** who had broken into her home and stabbed her as she slept in her bedroom in Kiryat Arba settlement (Hebron).

Two Israeli boys were injured in the reporting period in East Jerusalem, as a result of stone throwing against the vehicles in which they were travelling.

**GAZA STRIP**

In Gaza, **eight children were injured** (2 girls; 6 boys) between April and June.

- Three boys were injured during clashes with the ISF in the Access Restricted Areas (ARA),<sup>1</sup> during protests in solidarity with the situation in the West Bank. Of these, two were injured by live ammunition and one suffered tear gas inhalation.
- Five children (2 girls; 3 boys) were injured by the ISF during military operations in Al Bureij and Al Fukhari, including firing of missiles and tank shells, raising concerns that the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution safeguarding civilians had not been adhered to. Two children were injured by live ammunition, five by missile rockets, and one by Missile-shrapnel.

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<sup>1</sup> Access Restricted Areas: Since September 2000, Israel has tightened restrictions on Palestinian access to the sea and to land located near the fence with Israel, citing security concerns. Up to 35% of Gaza's agricultural land and as much as 85% of its fishing waters have been affected at various points. Currently, access to farming land within 300 metres of the perimeter fence separating Gaza from Israel is largely prohibited, while presence for several hundred metres beyond this distance is risky. Fishermen are currently allowed to access less than one third of the fishing areas allocated under the Oslo Accords - 6 out of 20 nautical miles (nm) from the coast.

## RECRUITMENT AND USE OF CHILDREN

In Gaza no cases were documented of the recruitment of children for use in armed conflict. However in the current security context it is not possible to ascertain the scale and extent of the situation given the security risks related to collecting comprehensive and detailed information.

## ARREST AND DETENTION OF CHILDREN

According to the monthly head count of children in Israeli military detention by the Israeli Prison Services (IPS), in April, **414 Palestinian children aged between 12 and 17 years, were held in military detention facilities** (402 boys; 12 girls). Data for May and June was not available at the time of writing.

Out of the 414 children detained, **three children are aged between 12 and 14**, 109 children between 14 and 15, and the remaining 302 between 15 and 17 years. Out of the 414 children, 271 are held in pre-trial detention and 130 are serving a sentence. **200 children were transferred outside the West Bank to detention facilities inside Israel, in contravention of the Fourth Geneva Convention** (Article 76).

**Thirteen boys, aged between 16 and 17 years, were held in administrative detention** as of end April, including four from East Jerusalem. This marks a **sharp increase** from the 7 children held in administrative detention in March 2016. **The number of children in administrative detention, as well as in detention, remains high.**

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2010	314	338	337	328	300	287	281	280	264	251	226	210
2011	221	216	224	217	211	207	201	176	162	150	159	132
2012	166	183	203	218	231	220	210	194	189	164	177	193
2013	219	234	236	236	223	193	195	180	179	159	173	154
2014	183	210	202	196	215	202	192	201	182	163	156	151
2015	163	182	182	164	163	160	153	156	171	307	407	422
2016	406	438	444	414								

Source: Israeli Prison Service data

## ILL-TREATMENT OF CHILDREN IN DETENTION

In relation to the cases of military detention, the Working Group on Grave Violations against Children (WGGV) gathered 27 individual affidavits of children (two girls and 25 boys) aged between 14 and 17 years. They reported ill-treatment by the Israeli Security Forces (ISF), the Israeli Police, the Israeli Security Agency (ISA) and/or the Israeli Prison Service while in Israeli military detention in the West Bank, excluding East Jerusalem. Out of the 27 cases, **19 children reported being subjected to at least 10 different types of ill-treatment**, including but not limited to painful hand ties, blindfolding, strip searching, leg ties, physical abuse, solitary confinement, verbal abuse, as well as no notification of rights and/or no presence of a lawyer or a parent during the interrogation. During the reporting period, 20 children reported being blindfolded. **Thirteen children were arrested at night, a practice which is traumatic for children and their families.**

## EDUCATION-RELATED VIOLATIONS

**In the second quarter, nine incidents relating to attacks on schools were documented in the West Bank, affecting 610 children.** No incidents were reported in the Gaza Strip or Israel. **This marks a**

decrease compared to the incidents reported in the first quarter (33), however this is not necessarily indicative of a change in conduct as the school year ended in May 2016.

### Attacks & threats of attacks on schools or protected persons

In five instances, Israeli Security Forces fired tear gas canisters in or around schools during the day, causing tear gas inhalation for students and/or interruption and cancellation of the school routine. Out of these five incidents, three took place in the Hebron Governorate and two in the Bethlehem Governorate. In three instances, the ISF raided the schools, in one case as part of a search operation. In one instance, on 3 May, a 10<sup>th</sup> grade student was reportedly shot and injured in the head by a rubber bullet while he was leaving al-Khader Secondary School for Boys.

### Denial of access to education

In April and May, 24 incidents of denial of access to education were documented, affecting 3,145 children. The incidents took place in the governorates of Bethlehem (11 incidents), Hebron (9 incidents), Nablus (2 incidents), and Jerusalem (2 incidents).

Sixteen incidents involved the loss of school time as a result of soldiers standing in front of the school or entering it, soldiers blocking entrance at the gate, soldiers stopping students and/or teachers at a checkpoint near a school, and due to area closures. Three incidents involved the detention of students and teachers.

On 5 June 2016, the Israeli authorities demolished and seized a donor-funded kindergarten structure in Sateh Al Bahar Bedouin community for being built without permit in Area C. A seizure order was handed to the community on the same day. The demolished kindergarten was built in early May replacing the old one and served 13 children in the community.

## DENIAL OF HUMANITARIAN ACCESS FOR CHILDREN

### Access to health

#### GAZA STRIP

Children increasingly face delays in accessing specialized medical care they require outside of Gaza. A slight decrease in the total number of applications for medical care outside of Gaza was noted during the second quarter of 2016, 1,946 compared to the first quarter (1,965).

Contributing factors to this increase during the first six months include the ongoing restriction of access through the Rafah terminal imposed by the Egyptian authorities since 2013; the shortage of medicines needed for adequate treatment in Gaza; and the slow and cumbersome process of security clearance imposed by Israel on parents and grandparents below the age of 55 who accompany children travelling for medical care.

### Demolition and Confiscation of Humanitarian Aid<sup>2</sup>

#### WEST BANK

Humanitarian actors have faced significant constraints when trying to access and provide emergency assistance to displaced families and communities in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. **In the second quarter of 2016, 47 structures provided by humanitarian aid organizations were demolished**

<sup>2</sup> This includes demolition of donor-funded structures provided for humanitarian relief

**by the Israeli authorities.** This marks a sharp decrease as compared to the previous quarter, when 139 structures provided by aid organizations were demolished by the Israeli authorities.

**Extremely vulnerable Bedouin communities living in Area C**, which is under Israeli administrative and security control, were disproportionately affected. **Many of these structures were provided as an emergency response to earlier demolitions**, and these demolitions exacerbated the conditions of these already vulnerable communities even further.

On 11 April 2016, the Israeli Civil Administration (ICA) along with the Israeli army confiscated two tents and other items (blankets, mattresses) belonging to two Palestinian families in Khan Al Ahmar Bedouin community in Area C of Jerusalem Governorate. Confiscation orders were handed during the incident. Both families, a total of 14 members including 10 children were displaced for the second time in a week, following the first demolition that took place on 7 April 2016. According to the families, they were provided by the tents and some of the items as post-demolition humanitarian relief.

This practice is in contravention of Article 59 of the Fourth Geneva Convention which requires Israel as the occupying power to facilitate relief schemes on behalf of the population of the occupied territory and deprives the affected children of the right to an adequate standard of living pursuant to Article 27 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

## DEMOLITIONS AND DISPLACEMENT

### WEST BANK, INCLUDING EAST JERUSALEM: Demolition and confiscation of humanitarian aid<sup>3</sup>

In the second quarter of 2016, Israeli authorities demolished 70 Palestinian homes and 73 other structures (including infrastructures, solar panels, water cistern, latrines, and animal shelters) throughout the West Bank including East Jerusalem. As a result, 331 persons were displaced, including 144 children. An additional 712 persons, of which 317 children, were affected by the demolitions, through diminished access to services and threats to livelihood.

#### Contact:

UNICEF State of Palestine: + 972 2 58 40 400

Catherine Weibel - [cweibel@unicef.org](mailto:cweibel@unicef.org)

Monica Awad - [mawad@unicef.org](mailto:mawad@unicef.org)

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<sup>3</sup> Demolition and confiscation of humanitarian aid includes demolition of donor-funded structures provided for humanitarian relief