

Situation of Concern: Israel and the State of Palestine

CAAC Bulletin 2021

Semi-Annual Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC) Bulletin, July to December 2021

The data included in this Bulletin is based on UN monitoring and verification of grave violations against children in Israel and the State of Palestine during the second half of 2021. Another Bulletin covers the first half of 2021. The first half of 2022 will be covered in the next Bulletin. The CAAC Bulletins are prepared to provide specific information on trends and the impact of conflict-related violence on children and to inform UN dialogue with parties to the conflict on measures to prevent and end grave violations of children's rights¹, in line with recommendations included in the UN Secretary General's Annual Reports on Children and Armed conflict: *"I reiterate my call upon all parties to continue to engage with my Special Representative and the United Nations, including at the country level, to end and prevent grave violations against children and to better protect children and respect international humanitarian law and international human rights law."*²

Major developments and Context

During the last six months of 2021 children continued to be affected by ongoing armed conflict, including Israel's military occupation, and the closure of the Gaza Strip. During the period from July to December, verified³ grave violations against children in the West Bank including East Jerusalem included nine Palestinian children killed, and 246 seriously injured by Israeli forces and 12 seriously injured by Israeli settlers⁴. One Israeli child was also seriously injured in conflict-related violence by Palestinian perpetrators. High numbers of Palestinian children also continued to be arrested by IF for alleged security-related offences, particularly in East Jerusalem (238). In the Gaza Strip, after the most serious escalation of armed conflict since 2014 between Palestinian armed groups and Israeli forces in May 2021, during the period from July to December lower numbers of grave violations were reported and verified. In August one Palestinian child was killed and 14 were seriously injured by IF during demonstrations at the Gaza-Israel fence. Overall, 2021 saw the highest numbers of Palestinian children killed in the Gaza Strip and the highest numbers of Israeli children killed in Israel since 2014, and the highest number of Palestinian children killed in the occupied West Bank including East Jerusalem since 2016.

Killing and Maiming

Between July and December 2021, nine Palestinian children were killed and 283 were seriously injured, and one Israeli child was seriously injured. These incidents were in Gaza (26), the occupied West Bank including East Jerusalem (267).

West Bank including East Jerusalem

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, eight Palestinian boys (aged 11 to 17) were killed by IF in the last six months of 2021, including one incident in which a child was also shot by an Israeli settler prior to being shot and killed by IF. Of these, four children were killed in the context of IF operations in West Bank towns, or in context of demonstrations against occupation and settlement expansion. In all four verified incidents, Palestinian children were killed by IF while posing no apparent threat to the lives of Israeli forces or civilians, raising concerns of excessive or unwarranted use of force⁵. For example, in Hebron governorate an 11-year-old boy was shot and killed while riding in his father's car with his two young siblings⁶.

¹ Data and information included in this bulletin is aligned with the 2021 Annual Report of the Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict (A/76/871-S/2022/493, 23 June 2022). In addition to summary data reflecting trends of grave violations, the Bulletin includes specific emblematic examples of incidents verified by the UN, in order to trigger dialogue on measures to prevent the recurrence of such incidents.

² A/76/871-S/2022/493, paragraph 92.

³ Unless otherwise indicated, incidents included in this bulletin are verified by the UN according to standards outlined in the global Guidelines and Field Manual for monitoring and reporting grave violations. Information that is not verified is referred to as "reported", "alleged" or "subject to verification".

⁴ In this report, 'Israeli settlers' refers to Israeli civilians, confirmed or believed to be residing in Israeli settlements established in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem

⁵ The Secretary General's Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict for the year 2021, highlighted excessive use of force by among the Developments and Concerns for Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory: "I am shocked by the number of children killed and maimed by Israeli forces during hostilities, in air strikes on densely populated areas and through the use of live ammunition during law enforcement operations, and by the persistent lack of accountability for these violations. I express serious concern regarding the excessive use of force and reiterate that security forces must exercise maximum restraint and use lethal force only when it is strictly unavoidable in order to protect life and put in place preventive and protective measures to end and prevent any excessive use of force against children. I note the existing procedures, which have been shared with my Special Representative, and I urge Israeli authorities to review and strengthen their procedures to prevent any excessive use of force" (A/76/871-S/2022/493, 23 June 2022).

⁶ The vehicle had driven in reverse and turned around, in the opposite direction from IF soldiers posted near the entrance of Beit Ummar. The IF soldiers ran after the vehicle on foot, shouting for it to stop and reportedly fired two warning shots, before firing multiple rounds of live ammunition into the rear of the vehicle, with one round hitting the child in the lungs.

Four Palestinian children were also killed following attacks or alleged attacks on Israeli soldiers or civilians. In three of the incidents, video and primary sources indicated that IF used lethal force unnecessarily, or after a child had been shot and was no longer presenting a threat. For example, in Bethlehem governorate a 14-year-old boy was shot in the chest four times, without warning or an attempted arrest, by IF who had observed the child and a friend approach a bypass road near the separation wall and reportedly begin to light a Molotov cocktail⁷. In all four incidents, the children's bodies were subsequently withheld by Israeli authorities⁸; and as of the end of December Israeli authorities were withholding the bodies of nine Palestinian children killed while perpetrating or allegedly perpetrating attacks⁹.

Another 258 Palestinian children (240 boys and 18 girls, aged three months to 17 years), were seriously injured in conflict-related incidents in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

Of these, 246 injuries were attributed to Israeli forces, which occurred mostly during demonstrations against settlement activities¹⁰, clashes, and during search and arrest operations, and one child was injured after reportedly carrying out a stabbing attack. Most children were injured by live ammunition (20), tear gas inhalation (106), and rubber-coated metal bullets¹¹ (108)¹². In a number of verified incidents, children sustained serious injuries in circumstances that raised concerns of excessive or unwarranted use of force by IF¹³.

Twelve Palestinian children (all boys) were injured in incidents attributed to Israeli settlers, including one incident in which a 15-year-old Palestinian boy was abducted and severely physically assaulted by a group of settlers¹⁴. The recurrence of such incidents and their increased severity in 2021 raises concerns regarding the requirement under international law¹⁵ that IF ensure protection of Palestinians and prevent settler violence.

Also in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, at least one Israeli child boy (aged one) was hospitalized with injuries after a stone was thrown through the window of his family's car by Palestinian perpetrators.

Gaza Strip

In the Gaza Strip, a 13-year-old boy was shot in the neck by IF during protests at the Israel-Gaza fence on 21 August and subsequently died from his injuries¹⁶.

Another 25 children (21 boys and 4 girls) were seriously injured in the Gaza Strip during July to December 2021.

Of these, 14 children were shot by IF with live ammunition during demonstrations near the Gaza-Israel fence. Another boy was injured in December when IF fired tank shells at a group of farmers, reportedly after a Palestinian armed group member shot and injured an Israeli civilian working on the Israeli side of the perimeter fence.

Another five Palestinian children (1 boy and 4 girls, aged five to 11) were seriously injured in incidents attributed to Palestinian armed groups, due to storage of weapons¹⁷ in the vicinity of populated areas, raising concerns regarding measures and precautions by armed groups to protect civilians.

Another five Palestinian boys were injured in accidents involving explosive remnants of war (ERW)¹⁸, not attributed to any party.

⁷ In another incident, in the Old City of Jerusalem, a 16-year-old boy was killed after stabbing and injuring two IF Border Police officers; the boy was shot multiple times by an Israeli civilian and then by IF, including after the child was already wounded on the ground.

⁸ In one case, the child's body was returned within the reporting period, after it was withheld for 37 days. The other bodies remained withheld as of the end December 2021.

⁹ On 9 September 2019, Israel's High Court of Justice (HCJ) ruled that Israeli authorities could withhold the bodies of Palestinians killed by Israeli forces as a tool for bargaining.

¹⁰ For example, in November, 24 boys were injured by Israeli forces in Burqa in Nablus governorate during clashes between Palestinians and IF, when residents came out of the village to deter a settler attack.

¹¹ Including 40mm "sponge-tipped" bullets used by Israeli police in East Jerusalem.

¹² The remaining injuries attributed to IF involved children physically assaulted (7); shot with concussion grenades (2) or tear gas canisters (1); and pepper sprayed (2).

¹³ For example, in September, an 11-year-old boy was shot twice in the abdomen and upper leg with live ammunition by IF, severely injuring him, in Hebron governorate. According to UN monitoring, the child was shot from a distance of more than 100 meters, while reportedly running away and not posing any threat, raising serious concerns of excessive use of force.

¹⁴ The abducted child was brought to an abandoned settlement outpost, held for 1.5 hours and assaulted by a group of settlers, including being beaten with a belt and sticks, tazed, pepper sprayed, and burned and cut on his feet, eventually falling unconscious. Following the incident, he was held by IF for two hours before being released back to his family, and hospitalized.

¹⁵ See: *Israel/OPT: UN experts warn of rising levels of Israeli settler violence in a climate of impunity*, 14 April 2021

¹⁶ The child was carrying a bottle of water and standing approximately 60-meters from the fence, when he was hit with live ammunition in his neck by IF, without a prior warning.

¹⁷ These five children were injured in an explosion of munitions stored in a residence in a densely populated area near a market in Gaza city in July 2021.

¹⁸ For example, on 15 August, four boys aged six to ten years old were injured in an ERW accident in Gaza.

Table I. Killing and Maiming trends: Reporting period compared to prior six months

Killing and Maiming of children	July-Dec 2020	Jan-June 2021
# of Palestinian children killed	77	9
# of Israeli children killed	2	0
# of Palestinian children maimed, including serious injuries	838	283
# of Israeli children maimed, including serious injuries	6	1

Recommendations from Secretary General's annual reports on CAAC

I express serious concern regarding the excessive use of force and reiterate that security forces must exercise maximum restraint and use lethal force only when it is strictly unavoidable in order to protect life and put in place preventive and protective measures to end and prevent any excessive use of force against children. I note the existing procedures, which have been shared with my Special Representative, and I urge Israeli authorities to review and strengthen their procedures to prevent any excessive use of force. I further urge Israel to continue to investigate each case where live ammunition was used, as required by procedure, and to pursue accountability for violations against children.

(A/76/871-S/2022/493, 23 June 2022)

I call upon Palestinian armed groups to cease all indiscriminate launching of rockets and mortars from densely populated areas in Gaza towards Israeli civilian population centres. *(A/76/871-S/2022/493, 23 June 2022)*

I urge the Israeli forces and Palestinian armed groups to abide by their obligations under international humanitarian and international human rights law, including by ensuring that operations are conducted in line with the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution, and to immediately correct and reinforce existing measures to ensure the protection of children affected by armed conflict.. *(A/76/871-S/2022/493, 23 June 2022)*

Recruitment and Use of Children

No incidents of recruitment and use of children were reported during July to December 2021. However, verified incidents attributed to armed groups in the Gaza Strip within the past year raise concerns regarding armed groups' measures to prevent recruitment or use of children under 18 in any capacity.

Table II. Recruitment and Use trends: Reporting period compared to prior six months

Recruitment and Use of Children	Jan-June 2021	July-Dec 2021
# of Palestinian children recruited or used	1	0

Starting in June and continuing into July and August, the military wings of Palestinian factions in the Gaza Strip, including the Palestinian Islamic Jihad's al-Quds Brigades¹⁹, Hamas' al-Qassam Brigades²⁰, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine's Abu Ali Mustapha Brigades²¹, and the Mujahideen Brigades²² held large-scale 'summer camps' in which children under 18 were enrolled, involving political/ideological themes, physical training, and military-style drills. All armed groups widely and actively promoted these camps, including through their websites and social media.

¹⁹ Al-Quds Brigades announcements stated that its camps were for children aged 14-17. Photographs published online appeared to show children under 14 participating in the camps.

²⁰ Al-Qassam Brigades announcements referred to camps divided for "the preparatory stage, the secondary stage, and the university stage, in addition to the adult stage". Photographs published online appeared to show children under 14 participating in the camps.

²¹ The PFLP stated on its social media that more than 1,000 children aged 14-17 participated in its camps.

²² The Mujahideen Brigades, stated that in addition to religious and national topics, first aid and emergency response, physical training and self-defense, its camps included weapons training, drills in tunnels, and firing live ammunition around camp participants to get them used to the sound of gunfire

The UN did not receive reports of individual cases or patterns of recruitment connected to the camp activities, however mass participation of children in military-style activities organized by members of armed groups, often at military sites, raised concerns regarding exposure of children to violence or military content, and possible future recruitment. Through direct contacts and private and public advocacy the UN reminded relevant parties and duty bearers of the need to do more to protect children from exposure to conflict and violence, including refraining from encouraging children to participate in violence.

Recommendations from Secretary General's annual reports on CAAC

I call upon Palestinian armed groups to cease the recruitment and use of children and to abide by their domestic and international legal obligations... I urge all Palestinian armed groups to protect children, including by preventing them from being exposed to the risk of violence or by abstaining from instrumentalizing them for political purposes.
(A/76/871-S/2022/493, 23 June 2022)

Arrest and Detention of Children for alleged security related offences²³

According to Israel Prison Services (IPS) data, between July and December 2021²⁴ there was a monthly average of 156 Palestinian children in IPS detention from the West Bank including East Jerusalem for alleged security related offences, with a total of 145 children still detained at the end of December, of which 53 were serving a sentence (37%), while the remainder were in pretrial detention and/or during trial (60%), or held in administrative detention²⁵ (3%) without charge or trial). Sixty-four per cent of these children were detained outside the occupied Palestinian territory.

Official data on the total number of Palestinian children arrested by Israeli forces in the reporting period was not available. Documentation by organizations working with detained Palestinians reported at least 449 children were arrested in the occupied West Bank, including 349 in East Jerusalem. The UN supported the provision of legal assistance to 238 children (ten girls) aged between 12 and 17 years old arrested in East Jerusalem for alleged security related offences. Most of the arrested children were from the Silwan (66 arrests), Al-Tur (47), and al-Issawiya (42) neighbourhoods. Additionally, Israeli forces detained at least five children aged 10-11 and thus below the age of criminal responsibility (12 years) in East Jerusalem.

The number of children arrested and detained, and particularly those held in pre-trial detention, detained during proceedings, or held under administrative detention without charge, raise concerns regarding the CRC principle that detention of a child should be a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time.

Table III. Detention of trends: Reporting period compared to prior six months

Detention of Children	Jan-June 2021	July-Dec 2021
# Palestinian children in detention for alleged security of fences (at end of reporting period, IPS)	167	145
# Palestinian children in administrative detention (at end of reporting period, IPS)	8	5
# Palestinian children arrested in East Jerusalem	312	238

Ill-treatment, including breaches of due process, during arrest, transfer, interrogation, and detention by Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), Israeli Police, the Israeli Security Agency (ISA), and the IPS continued to be reported in testimony by a substantial proportion of interviewed children.

²³ The UN Children and Armed Conflict monitoring and reporting includes children detained by all parties on security-related grounds, in the context of armed conflict. Although not covered in the reporting, Palestinian children are also detained for alleged regular criminal offences by forces of the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank; by de facto authorities (Hamas) in the Gaza Strip; and by Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank including East Jerusalem. Regardless of the scope of reporting, the UN advocates with all parties for respect of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), whereby detention of children should be only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time.

²⁴ Figures are based on data published on quarterly basis by the Israel Prison Service (IPS).

²⁵ I.e., detained on security grounds, based on secret evidence, and without being charged, for periods ranging from three to six months, after which an administrative detention order may be renewed for the further term or the child is released. Children who remained under administrative detention during the reporting period included a 17-year-old boy with a rare medical condition, first placed in administrative detention in January 2021, and whose detention was extended for additional four-month periods in May and September 2021, despite repeated calls by the UN for his release. The child turned 18 in January 2022 and his detention was further extended without any charge, and he contracted COVID-19 in prison.

The UN documented 25 cases of boys (aged 12-17 years old) in East Jerusalem (4) and elsewhere in the West Bank (21), who reported different forms of ill-treatment and breaches of due process, including the following:

- 18 children (72% of those who provided testimonies) were arrested from home at night during planned arrest operations.
- 13 children (52%) reported that they had to sign a document in Hebrew, a language that they do not understand.
- 22 children (88%) reported that they had been blindfolded during transfer from the place of arrest and that they remained blindfolded sometimes even during interrogation.
- 24 children (96%) reported that they were handtied upon arrest, including 21 children (84%) who reported that a painful method of hand-tying was used, 12 children (48%) reported being leg-tied, and 16 (64%) that they were transferred on the floor of a vehicle.
- 19 children (76%) reported that they endured physical violence, including slapping, punching, or kicking during arrest, transfer, interrogation and/or detention.
- 17 children (68%) reported that they were verbally abused and intimidated during arrest, transfer, interrogation and/or detention.
- 14 children (56%) reported not being adequately notified of their legal rights, in particular the right to counsel and the right to remain silent.
- 6 children (24%), aged between 16 and 17 years, reported that they had been held in solitary confinement during interrogations, i.e. held in a cell alone for periods ranging between ten and 29 days, without daylight, and purposely no access to other children simultaneously held in detention, family or lawyer.
- 20 children (80%) reported that neither a parent nor a lawyer was present prior to their interrogation.
- 18 children (72%) reported that they were not provided with adequate food or water and 15 children (60%) reported that they were not given access to toilets during the initial stages of detention, particularly at stages of arrest, transfer and interrogation.
- 7 children (28%) reported that they were exposed to outside elements during the initial stages of detention, particularly at stages of arrest, transfer and while being held prior to interrogation. This includes arrested children forced to stay outside during cold or hot weather for prolonged periods of time, including sometimes on their knees and/or hand-tied.
- 10 children (40%) reported that they had been threatened in order to confess, during transfer and /or interrogation, and 10 children (40%) reported threats of harm to their family members during interrogation.

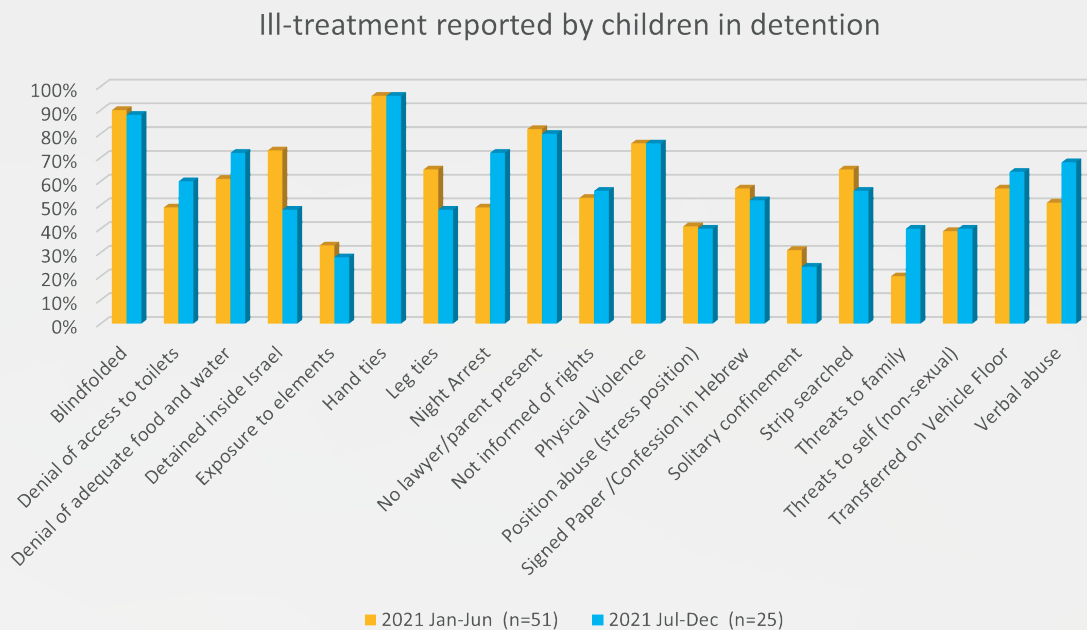
Of concern, several children arrested reported severe violence during arrest and interrogation.²⁶

Following a petition by an Israeli human rights organization in Israel's Supreme Court calling for an end to night-time arrests of Palestinian children, the IF reportedly initiated a new procedure to summon Palestinian children wanted for interrogation in the occupied West Bank instead of arresting them at night. The procedure included a number of exceptions, including for children wanted for "**serious**" offences²⁷. Since 01 August when the procedure reportedly took effect, the UN and partners' documentation indicated that most Palestinian children in the West Bank continued to be arrested in planned night operations.

The Government of Israel reported that in October 2021, Military Order 2079 was approved, stating that police interrogations of Palestinian children detained by IF in the West Bank should be conducted and documented in a language the child speaks, or else audio-visually recorded, and that all interrogations for offences with a sentence exceeding 10 years should be audio-visually recorded.

²⁶ For example, two Palestinian boys aged 13 and 15 were arrested by IF on their family's land in Ramallah by 10-15 IF personnel, and assaulted. They were punched, slapped, kicked in the face, head, struck in the head with helmets and rifle butts. They were detained for 30 hours and released without charge.

²⁷ Which security-related offences are classified as "serious", however was not specified in the procedure.

Figure I. Ill-treatment trends: Reporting period compared to prior six months

Recommendations from Secretary General's annual reports on CAAC

I reiterate my call upon Israel to uphold international juvenile justice standards, including the use of detention as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time, to end the administrative detention of children, and to prevent any violence and ill-treatment in detention. (A/76/871-S/2022/493, 23 June 2022)

Education related incidents²⁸

One threat of attack on school personnel by Israeli forces (1) in the West Bank occurred during July to December 2021. A further 52 incidents of other interferences with education by IF (51) and Israeli settlers (1) were verified, affecting 3,440 children across nine governorates of the West Bank²⁹. More than half of incidents took place in Bethlehem (16) and Jenin (11). In 25 of the 52 incidents, IF intimidations and denial of teachers' and students' access to schools, including through checkpoints in four governorates³⁰ of the West Bank resulted in compromised functioning or partial closure of schools³¹. In 21 other incidents, IF fired tear gas, concussion grenades, and rubber-coated metal bullets at and around schools, affecting their functioning³². Palestinian schools continued to face threats of demolition and/or confiscation by IF, with two (2) incidents of schools receiving demolition or stop-work orders, and one incident of confiscation of structures from a school in Area C of Tubas governorate³³. Additionally, at least ten children were detained by IF while commuting to/ from school.

In the Gaza Strip, following an assessment revealing "a cavity, and a possible tunnel" at the location of IF missile strikes in an UNRWA school's inner compound³⁴ in May 2021 (refer to incident in January to June 2021 Bulletin), Gaza de facto authorities subsequently in August prevented an UNMAS team from conducting a safety inspection of the facility. An UNRWA statement protested the takeover by the de facto authorities of the facility, which undermined the inviolability and neutrality of the premises and compromised the safe return of children to their schools³⁵.

²⁸ Education-related violations are defined in line with UNSCR 1998 and subsequent guidance note (2014) available under: <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/publications/AttacksonSchoolsHospitals.pdf>. The Guidance Note explains that: "The general notion of attacks on schools and hospitals will be further disaggregated for monitoring and reporting purposes into "education-related" and "health care-related" incidents" while noting that "not all acts affecting education and health care during armed conflict are violations of international law". The Note further suggests the following breakdown for education-related incidents: attacks on schools; attacks on educational personnel; threats of attacks; military use of schools; and other interferences with education.

²⁹ Bethlehem (16), Jenin (11), Hebron (6), Nablus (6), Tubas (5), Tulkarem (3), Qalqilya (3), Jericho (1) and Jerusalem (1) governorates

³⁰ Jenin, Qalqilya, Bethlehem, and Nablus governorates

³¹ For example, in November, IF and armed settlers attacked school students in Al Lubban ash Sharqiya, in Nablus governorate, seriously injuring at least three children, including an 11-year-old boy whose skull was fractured with a rubber-coated metal bullet (RCMB) fired by IF; a 12-year-old boy hit in the eye with an RCMB by IF; and a 13-year-old girl who was physically assaulted and struck with a rifle butt by an IF soldier.

³² For example, in September, IF fired tear gas in proximity to a school in Hebron, including four tear gas canisters landing inside the school premises, interrupting the education of 315 children. On 19 December, IF fired tear gas and rubber-coated metal bullets in close proximity to a school in Bethlehem governorate, interrupting the education of 193 children.

³³ The affected school was serving 50 students (18 girls, 32 boys) from pre-school to fourth grade.

³⁴ <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/official-statements/neutrality-and-inviolability-unrwa-installations-must-be-respected-all>. A statement by UNRWA condemned "the existence and potential use of such underground structures, including tunnels, in the strongest possible terms", noting the agency sent letters of protest to de facto authorities in Gaza.

³⁵ <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/official-statements/unrwa-reiterates-inviolability-its-installations-must-be-respected-all>.

Table IV. Education-related Incidents trends: Reporting period compared to prior six months

Education-related Incidents	Jan-June 2021	July-Dec 2021
# attacks on schools or related personnel	21	1
# Military use of schools	1	0
# other interferences with education	46	52

Recommendations from Secretary General's annual reports on CAAC

I exhort Israel to better protect schools. (A/76/871-S/2022/493, 23 June 2022)

I reiterate my call upon all parties to continue to engage with my Special Representative and the United Nations, including at the country level, to end and prevent grave violations against children and to better protect children and respect international humanitarian law and international human rights law. (A/76/871-S/2022/493, 23 June 2022)

Health-related incidents³⁶

There were no attacks on health facilities in the Gaza Strip documented during July to December 2021. In the West Bank including East Jerusalem, 12 attacks on health personnel by IF were verified, resulting in injury to 21 health workers³⁷. The majority of incidents (83%) occurred in the Beita (8 incidents) and Burqa (2 incidents) areas of Nablus, and involved paramedics fired on with rubber-coated metal bullets, tear gas, or concussion grenades, or physically assaulted by IF, while inside ambulances or responding to injuries during Palestinian demonstrations against settlement expansion and ensuing clashes with Israeli forces³⁸.

Seventeen (17) other interferences with health the delivery of health were also verified in the West Bank including East Jerusalem, attributed to IF (16) and Israeli settlers (1). Most incidents involved Israeli settlers (1) throwing stones and Israeli forces (15) firing, rubber-coated metal bullets, sound grenades and tear gas at ambulances and paramedics while responding to injuries during demonstrations and clashes.

Table V. Health-related Incidents trends: Reporting period compared to prior six months

Health-related Incidents	Jan-June 2021	July-Dec 2021
# attacks on hospitals or related personnel	100	12
# other interferences with health	40	17

Recommendations from Secretary General's annual reports on CAAC

I reiterate my call upon all parties to continue to engage with my Special Representative and the United Nations, including at the country level, to end and prevent grave violations against children and to better protect children and respect international humanitarian law and international human rights law. (A/76/871-S/2022/493, 23 June 2022)

³⁶ Health-related violations are defined in line with UNSCR 1998 and its guidance note (2014). See footnote 28.

³⁷ These health workers were injured by rubber-coated metal bullets (9), pepper spray (4), tear gas inhalation (5); broken glass when ambulance windows shattered after being fired on with concussion grenades or tear gas canisters (2); and physical assault (1).

³⁸ For example, on 18 December, IF shot in the leg with a rubber-coated metal bullet a health worker who was providing emergency first aid support to persons injured in demonstrations against settlement expansion at Burqa. The health worker was subsequently hospitalized.

Denial of humanitarian access for children

Between July and December 2021, Israeli authorities received 2,484 applications for children in need of specialized medical care to cross the Erez terminal to access health services outside of the Gaza Strip, of which 1,510 (61%) were approved, while 5 (0.2%) were denied and 969 (39%) were delayed³⁹ by Israeli authorities, affecting 974 children (404 girls and 570 boys)⁴⁰. The rate of permit approvals for children during 2021 (61%) was lower than in 2020, when 69% of children's applications were approved.

Table VI. Denial of Humanitarian Access trends: Reporting period compared to prior six months

Denial of Humanitarian Access	Jan-June 2021	July-Dec 2021
# (%) approved child permits to exit Gaza for health	1,009 (61%)	(%61) 1,510
# (%) delayed or denied child permits to exit Gaza for Health	655 (39%)	(%39) 974
Other incidents of attacks or denial of humanitarian assistance	2	0

Recommendations from Secretary General's annual reports on CAAC

I reiterate my call upon all parties to continue to engage with my Special Representative and the United Nations, including at the country level, to end and prevent grave violations against children and to better protect children and respect international humanitarian law and international human rights law. (A/76/871-S/2022/493, 23 June 2022)

Demolition and displacement

The UN verified 420 demolitions and seizures of Palestinian-owned structures by Israeli authorities⁴¹ in the occupied West Bank including East Jerusalem, compared to 390 demolitions and seizures in Q1 and Q2 2021. The demolitions displaced 405 people, including 224 children. Another 8,288 persons, including 4,036 children, were also affected by the demolitions, through reduced access to basic services and impact on their livelihood. Of the 420 demolished and seized structures, including 90 donor-funded structures, 366 (87%) were in Area C, 49 (12%) were in East Jerusalem and five structures were in Areas A&B (1%). One structure was demolished as punishment for the actions of a relative, and all other demolitions occurred on the grounds of lack of building permits, which are nearly impossible for Palestinians to acquire. The 420 demolished structures included 81 Palestinian-inhabited residences and 339 other structures, which included uninhabited residential, agricultural, water, and livelihood structures. A further 68 structures were self-demolished by Palestinian owners in East Jerusalem (65), Area C (2) and in Area B (1), to avoid costly Israeli demolition fees and related fines⁴². These self-demolitions displaced another 111 children and affected a further 88 children. One 17-year-old Palestinian boy died in an accident while assisting a neighbour to self-demolish a house in East Jerusalem.

Table VII. Demolition and Displacement trends: Reporting period compared to prior six months

Demolition and Displacement	Jan-June 2021	July-Dec 2021
# Palestinian children displaced by demolition and seizure, incl. self-demolition	323	335
# Palestinian children affected by demolition and seizure, incl self-demolition	2,044	4,124

Recommendations from Secretary General's annual reports on CAAC

I reiterate my call upon all parties to continue to engage with my Special Representative and the United Nations, including at the country level, to end and prevent grave violations against children and to better protect children and respect international humanitarian law and international human rights law. (A/76/871-S/2022/493, 23 June 2022)

³⁹ i.e. receiving no definitive response from Israeli authorities by the time of (and consequently missed) their hospital appointment.

⁴⁰ Additional children may be denied access via delay or denial of permits for accompanying adult relatives or the non-approval of financial support from the Palestinian Authority.

⁴¹ Demolitions were carried out by Israeli Civil Administration, Jerusalem Municipality, and the Ministry of Interior, under guard of Israeli forces.

⁴² Further information on fees and fines related to structures ordered to be demolished by Israeli authorities is available at:

<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/peak-demolitions-and-confiscations-amidst-increasing-denial-right-justice>