

Targeting childhood: Palestinian children killed by Israeli forces and settlers in the occupied West Bank

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Defense for Children International – Palestine is an independent, local Palestinian child rights organization dedicated to defending and promoting the rights of children living in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. Since 1991, we have investigated, documented and exposed grave human rights violations against children; held Israeli and Palestinian authorities accountable to universal human rights principles; and advocated at the international and national levels to advance access to justice and protection for children. We also provide direct legal aid to children in distress.



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Overview of report

Following October 7, 2023, Israeli forces unleashed an unprecedented assault on Palestinians in the Gaza Strip that quickly unfolded into a full-fledged genocide, with the Palestinian child death toll in Gaza climbing past 16,000 in ten months.

As part of Israel's campaign of genocide targeting Palestinians in Gaza, Israeli forces immediately escalated operations throughout the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, carrying out military incursions into Palestinian communities and routinely targeting Palestinian children with intentional lethal force.

Israeli forces quickly and brutally cracked down on demonstrations organized in support of Palestinians in Gaza by Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, carried out drone strikes in the West Bank for the first time in two decades, and systematically blocked ambulances and paramedics from reaching children injured by Israeli soldiers.

This report centers the case studies of the 141 Palestinian children killed by Israeli forces and settlers in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, between October 7, 2023, and July 31, 2024, collected by Defense for Children International - Palestine (DCIP) field researchers.

On average, Israeli forces have killed a Palestinian child in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, every two days since October 7, 2023.

Most of the children were killed with live ammunition, usually a single bullet to the head or torso. Some were shot in the back, indicating they were turned away from Israeli soldiers. Some were participating in confrontations between Israeli forces and Palestinian residents of communities in the occupied West Bank, while others were simply going about their daily lives: sitting in a car with her mother, on his way home from school, or in one case, standing inside his own house.

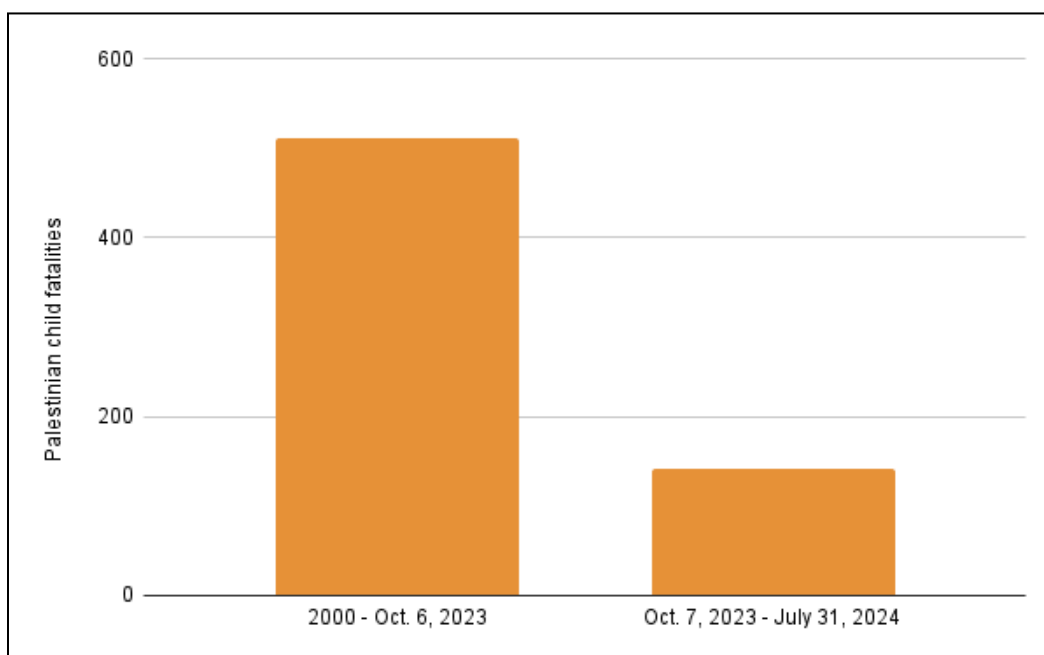
DCIP has documented 705 Palestinian child fatalities in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, since 2000. 20 percent of all of the Palestinian children killed by Israeli forces and settlers in the occupied West Bank in more than two decades were killed in the last ten months. Israel's decades-long de facto policy of shooting to kill has escalated and intensified at an alarming rate.

Israeli forces have made clear their contempt for Palestinian children's lives in their deliberate and systematic disregard for international law and even their own policies permitting the use of live ammunition in circumstances not justified under international law.

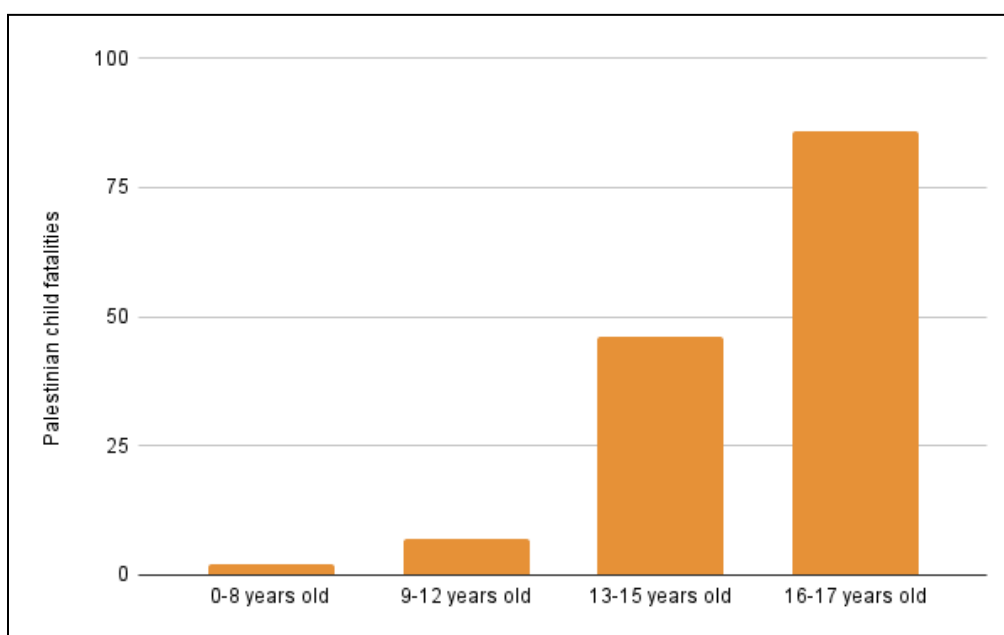
Not a single Israeli soldier has been held accountable for killing any of the Palestinian children included in this report despite widespread and systematic evidence of unlawful killings.



Graph 1: Total Palestinian child fatalities in the occupied West Bank by date



Graph 2: Distribution of Palestinian child fatalities in the occupied West Bank by age between October 7, 2023 and July 31, 2024





Methodology

Defense for Children International - Palestine (DCIP) monitors, documents, and reports on international human rights and humanitarian law violations stemming from Israel's military occupation of Palestinians living in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. Specializing in violations of children's rights as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as other international, regional, and local standards, DCIP works to effect positive change in the lives of children living across the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). DCIP implements an integrative approach that utilizes the international human rights framework, evidence-based advocacy, and movement building to advance the rights and protection of Palestinian children.

DCIP field researchers collect affidavits from eyewitnesses in accordance with UN standards and are trained to ask a series of non-leading questions. In addition to eyewitness statements, DCIP field researchers frequently seek medical reports and CCTV footage when available. Field researchers confirm each child's full name and date of birth by obtaining a copy of the child's national identification card or birth certificate.

This report is based on evidence collected by DCIP's field researchers documenting 141 Palestinian child fatalities in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, between October 7, 2023, and July 31, 2024.

Legal Overview

International humanitarian law regulates armed conflict, specifically the methods and means of warfare, the conduct of armed forces and armed groups, and the relationship between an occupying power and an occupied territory and its inhabitants. Since 1967, Israel has occupied the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza when Israeli forces entered and established authority in the territory. In doing so, Israel became the "Occupying Power" for purposes of international law, which carries clear obligations to protect the Palestinian civilian population under its control, including children.

Under international law, as defined by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), a child is any person under the age of 18 and is afforded greater protections than others due to a child's protected person status. Contrary to the provisions of international law relating to the duties and obligations of an occupying power, Israeli military officials deploy excessive, disproportionate, and unjustified intentional lethal force towards Palestinian children in violation of international humanitarian law (IHL), international criminal law, and international human rights law, amounting to unlawful killings that constitute war crimes and extrajudicial killings.



1. Live ammunition and snipers

Of the 141 children killed during this reporting period, Israeli forces and settlers have shot and killed 116 Palestinian children using live ammunition or trained snipers in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, since October 7, 2023. Nearly all of these children were fatally shot in the head or the torso, and 18 were shot in the back: a crystal clear indicator that the child posed no threat to Israeli forces. Whether Israeli forces shoot a Palestinian child at point-blank range or from more than 1,000 feet away, soldiers are shooting children as a pattern and practice in violation of international law.

Israeli forces regularly carry out military incursions into Palestinian communities throughout the occupied West Bank. These incursions frequently include the deployment of snipers, also known as sharpshooters.

“A sharpshooter's role in the [Israeli armed forces] is to target and eliminate particularly difficult terrorist threats. Sharpshooters are skilled at hitting moving targets, particularly small targets, and shooting in the dark.” -Israeli military website

Israeli snipers routinely shoot to kill Palestinian children as they are going about their daily life: Waiting at a taxi stand, getting ready for morning prayer, returning home from football practice, sitting in a car, or talking to a friend outside. The deliberate targeting of children by snipers violates international humanitarian law, international human rights law, and international criminal law.

Legal Context

As part of the occupying state, when Israeli forces shoot a child with live ammunition or deploy snipers to target and shoot a child, they are committing grave breaches of the Geneva Convention as defined in Article 147. These acts include the wilful killing of children, protected persons, not justified by military necessity. In all the cases documented by DCIP illustrate the circumstances in which live ammunition is fired at children who pose no imminent threat. They are shot in the upper torso including head, back, and chest. There is no evidence that suggests that Israeli forces issued warnings prior to opening fire, nor is there evidence or information that any attempt was made to use less lethal measures. Evidence collected indicates that Israeli forces in practice have a policy in place that amounts to wilful killing.

Military officials conducting these acts may be prosecuted at the International Criminal Court for the war crime of wilful killing under the Rome Statute, Article 8. In order for military officials to be prosecuted for the crime of willful killing the following elements must be met: the victim must be a protected person under the Geneva Conventions. The killing must be intentional and not justified by any of the exceptions allowed under international law, and the perpetrator must be aware or should be aware of the factual circumstances that establish the victim's protected status.



Under the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement, law enforcement officials should apply non-violent means before resorting to the use of force. While live ammunition may be used as a last resort when faced with an imminent mortal threat, the Israeli military's [open-fire policy](#) permits the unjustified use of intentional lethal force. Where previously open-fire policies were permitted in certain life threatening circumstances, they were [relaxed](#) as the circumstances deemed life threatening expanded in scope. For example, justified as a necessary security measure, Israeli forces are permitted to shoot to kill Palestinians who had thrown stones, even when the individual is fleeing or no longer presents any imminent mortal threat. In 2018, during the Great March of Return protests along the Gaza perimeter fence, Israeli soldiers were [authorized](#) to fire live ammunition and use “a lot of force” against Palestinians, circumstances that previously required non-lethal measures.

Israeli forces in practice and policy routinely deploy lethal force against children amounting to unlawful killings that constitute war crimes and extrajudicial killings.

20 percent of the children from the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, documented by DCIP in the last 24 years were killed during this reporting period. This notable increase, in part, can be attributed to Israeli authorities' unwillingness to hold individual soldiers accountable for unlawful conduct and war crimes.



TARGETING CHILDHOOD

ISRAEL'S SHOOT-TO-KILL POLICY IN THE WEST BANK

Israeli forces and settlers killed **116 Palestinian children** in the occupied West Bank with live ammunition from October 7, 2023–July 31, 2024. 90% were struck in the torso, head, or multiple areas, indicating that the shooter targeted them with intent to kill.



Amir, 13
shot in the head while participating in a march against the Israeli genocide in Gaza



Ruqaya, 4
shot in the torso while riding in the back seat of a taxi with her mom



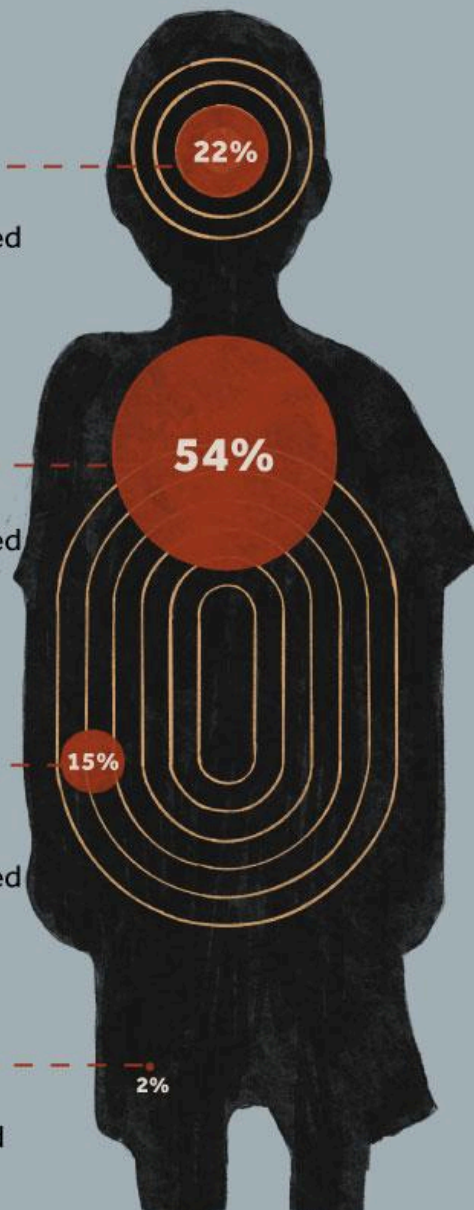
Mahmoud, 15
shot in the head, torso, and limbs while riding his bike home from school

Head
25 children killed

Torso
62 children killed

Multiple Areas
17 children killed

Limbs
2 children killed



In 8% of cases, DCIP could not determine the location of a child's gunshot wounds since Israeli authorities confiscated the child's body.



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Case studies: Palestinian children shot and killed by Israeli forces

Khalil Mohammad Khalil Shalash and Qais Mohammad Hassan Shalash



Israeli forces shot and killed two Palestinian children walking towards the main road in the town of Shuqba, just west of Ramallah, around 3 p.m. on October 18, 2023, according to documentation collected by DCIP. 15-year-old Khalil Mohammad Khalil Shalash was struck once in the armpit and once in the neck. 17-year-old Qais Mohammad Hassan Shalash was shot in the lower back. Israeli forces shot the boys as they were walking toward the main road from a distance of about 250 meters away (820 feet). Qais and Khalil bled out for approximately 30 minutes before an ambulance arrived. They were both pronounced dead upon arrival at the Palestine Medical Complex in Ramallah.

Hamdan Omar Mahmoud Hamdan



Hamdan Omar Mahmoud Hamdan, 13, was shot in the back of the head by Israeli forces when they opened fire on a Palestinian vehicle around 4 p.m. on October 30, 2023 near the entrance to the Palestinian village of Zawata, according to documentation collected by DCIP. Hamdan was sitting in the back seat of a car driven by his father when he sustained the gunshot wound to his head. Hamdan's father drove him to Rafidia Hospital in Nablus, where he remained in the intensive care unit until he was pronounced dead around 10 a.m. on November 2.



Ahmad Mohammad Khalil Samoudi

Ahmad Mohammad Khalil Samoudi, 17, was shot and killed by an Israeli sniper around 6:30 p.m. on June 11, 2024 on Al-Mayadeen road in the center of Kafr Dan town, northwest of Jenin in the northern occupied West Bank, according to documentation collected by DCIP. Ahmad and another child were allegedly carrying homemade explosive devices and waiting for the passage of Israeli military vehicles. An Israeli sniper targeted the two children with six bullets from a distance of 100 to 150 meters (328 to 492 feet) away. Ahmad was struck with a bullet in his leg, fell to the ground and started asking for help, while the other child was struck with a bullet in the left thigh and managed to escape. The Israeli sniper shot at Ahmad again, striking him in the chest and head.



Subsequently, an Israeli military vehicle approached Ahmad, and the driver got out to shoot him three more times, staying near him for around five to eight minutes. During this time, Israeli forces blocked a Palestinian ambulance from reaching Ahmad as he lay wounded. Once Israeli forces withdrew, the Palestinian ambulance transported Ahmad to Jenin Governmental Hospital, where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

Mohammad Khaled Taher Zaid



Mohammad Khaled Taher Zaid, 13, was standing with a friend in front of a United Nations run school located near the entrance to Jalazoun refugee camp, on March 2, 2024, when Israeli forces fired live ammunition targeting the boys, according to documentation collected by DCIP. Israeli forces were deployed close by in the illegal Israeli settlement of Beit El. Israeli forces fired live ammunition from 20 to 40 meters (66 to 130 feet) away and Mohammad sustained three gunshot wounds to his back and thigh. He was pronounced dead at Palestine Medical Complex in Ramallah.



Mohammad Morad Ahmad Hoshiyeh

Mohammad Morad Ahmad Hoshiyeh, 12, was shot by Israeli forces with live ammunition in the abdomen at 6:30 p.m. on June 14 near the street connecting Al-Amari refugee camp and Um Al-Sharayet neighborhood of Ramallah, according to documentation collected by DCIP. Mohammad was on his way home after finishing football training in Ramallah. Mohammad was shot by an Israeli soldier from inside a heavily armored military vehicle from a distance of between 70 to 90 meters (230 to 295 feet) away, and was transported by ambulance to the Palestine Medical Complex in Ramallah. Mohammad succumbed to his wounds around 10 a.m. on June 22.



Ghassan Gharib Hussein Zahran



Ghassan Gharib Hussein Zahran, 14, was shot and killed around 2 p.m. on July 9 in the Palestinian village of Deir Abu Mashal, west of Ramallah, according to documentation collected by DCIP. Ghassan, accompanied by two other children, was playing at the entrance of the village near the Israeli-only road Route 465. Three Israeli soldiers traveling in a civilian vehicle on Route 465 fired live ammunition at the children from a distance of 80 to 100 meters (262 to 328 feet) away. Ghassan was struck with a bullet in the back which exited from his abdomen.



TARGETING CHILDHOOD

ISRAEL'S SHOOT-TO-KILL POLICY IN THE WEST BANK

ISRAELI FORCES AND SETTLERS SHOT AND KILLED **116 PALESTINIAN CHILDREN** WITH LIVE AMMUNITION FROM OCTOBER 7, 2023–JULY 31, 2024.

THIS CHART ILLUSTRATES THE DISTANCE FROM WHICH ISRAELI FORCES TARGETED 76 PALESTINIAN CHILDREN.





Case studies: Palestinian children shot and killed by Israeli snipers

Mohammad Ali Mohammad Azya



Mohammad Ali Mohammad Azya, 17, was preparing to go to morning prayer at the mosque across the street from his house when an Israeli sniper stationed near his home in Aida refugee camp, near Bethlehem, shot him in the chest around 4:30 a.m. on November 10, 2023, according to documentation collected by DCIP.. Israeli forces were conducting an incursion into Aida refugee camp at the time. Israeli forces then detained Mohammad for over four hours, despite his injuries, and prevented Mohammad's father from taking his son to the hospital. Around 8 a.m. Israeli forces handed Mohammad's body over to a Palestinian ambulance, which transported him to Al-Hussein Hospital in Bethlehem, where he was pronounced dead.

Mahmoud Khaled Mahmoud Abu Al-Haija

Mahmoud Khaled Mahmoud Abu Al-Haija, 17, was shot in the abdomen on November 25, 2023 while he was standing at a window inside his house in the Al-Zahra neighborhood, south of Jenin refugee camp, around midnight, according to documentation collected by DCIP. An Israeli sniper stationed in a building across the street about 300 meters (984 feet) away shot Mahmoud, then Israeli forces entered his family's apartment. Israeli forces searched the apartment, confiscating Mahmoud's cell phone and identity card, as Mahmoud's father called an ambulance. When the ambulance arrived outside the building, Israeli soldiers searched the paramedics and prevented them from reaching Mahmoud for about 40 minutes. Eventually, the ambulance brought Mahmoud to Al-Razi Hospital, where he was pronounced dead around 1 a.m.





Mahmoud Amjad Ismail Hamadneh



Mahmoud Amjad Ismail Hamadneh, 15, was shot and killed by Israeli forces around 8 a.m. on May 21, 2024 on a road near Jenin refugee camp located in the northern occupied West Bank, according to documentation collected by DCIP. An Israeli sniper targeted Mahmoud with several bullets and struck him in the head, chest, and foot. Mahmoud was returning home from school on his electric bicycle in the area behind Jenin Governmental Hospital and Al-Amal Hospital. Mahmoud was transported by a Palestinian ambulance to Jenin Governmental Hospital, where he was pronounced dead on arrival.



2. Deliberate prevention of medical aid

Israeli forces deliberately and systematically blocked paramedics and ambulances from reaching injured Palestinian children, according to documentation collected by DCIP. This happened in 60 out of 141, or 43 percent, of cases included in this report.

Israeli forces order Palestinian paramedics and ambulance drivers to leave the scene at gunpoint, fire live ammunition toward individuals running toward an injured child to offer aid, and block roads and detain ambulance crews so they cannot reach an injured child. In some cases, Israeli forces surround a bleeding child, preventing any medical care.

These acts of cruelty leave Palestinian children, injured by Israeli live fire or drone-fired missiles, bleeding out on the ground, alone and in pain, with the intent to ensure death.

Legal context

Blocking ambulances and firing at paramedics and civilians attempting to assist injured children constitute grave breaches of the Article 147 of the Geneva Convention. In doing so, Israeli forces are willfully causing great suffering or serious injury to body or health to Palestinian children.

It is also a clear violation of international criminal law. Israel's practice of obstructing medical aid, when done deliberately and systematically, against protected persons under the Geneva Convention, constitutes a form of inhuman treatment, leading to severe suffering or serious injury to body or mental health. The accounts below are examples of Israel's practice within a consistent context of ensuring children bleed out prior to allowing access to medical aid, and would constitute the criminal act of inhuman treatment under Article 8 of the Rome Statute.

By preventing medical aid and ambulances to reach an injured child, Israel violates Article 6 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child as enshrined within it is every child's inherent right to life. State [parties](#) to this treaty, such as Israel, must ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival and development of a child. The decisive act of preventing medical assistance to reach a child shot with live ammunition seems to indicate an intent to ensure to the maximum extent possible the death of that child.

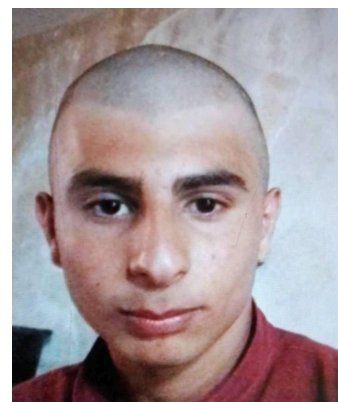
This pattern of practice is in violation of international humanitarian law. For example, the denial of medical treatment amounts to cruel and inhumane or degrading under the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT) which Israel [ratified](#) on October 3, 1991. The act of deliberately preventing aid by blocking ambulances and even at times using force in order to prevent aid, likely inflicts severe physical or mental suffering, and therefore meets the requirement for cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment. States that are parties to UNCAT, such as Israel, have an obligation to prevent this type of treatment.



Case studies: Israeli forces ensure Palestinian children bleed out

Obaida Ahmad Ali Kmail

14-year-old Obaida Ahmad Ali Kmail was walking to school in the city of Qabatiya, south of Jenin, when he heard the sound of gunfire around 7:30 a.m. on October 22, 2023, according to documentation collected by DCIP. Obaida turned back and attempted to take cover behind a parked vehicle when Israeli military vehicles approached Obaida. They opened fire on Obaida with live ammunition from a distance of 15 meters (50 feet), firing and hitting his chest and abdomen. Israeli forces continued to fire at Obaida as he attempted to flee toward the center of the city. Obaida fell to the ground and was no longer moving when Israeli forces prevented an ambulance from reaching Obaida. After 40 minutes, a Palestinian ambulance was finally allowed to reach him. Obaida was pronounced dead on arrival at Jenin Government Hospital.



Maher Abdullah Ahmad Jawabra



During an Israeli military incursion into Al-Far'a refugee camp near Nablus, 14-year-old Maher Abdullah Ahmad Jawabra was shot in the head by an Israeli sniper around 7:15 a.m. on December 8, 2023, according to documentation collected by DCIP. Maher was standing on his cousin's roof with his cousins and friend when the sniper stationed on top of an UNRWA medical center shot him from a distance of 250-300 meters (820 to 984 feet) away. Israeli forces detained Palestinian ambulances at gunpoint while they attempted to reach Maher. Only after Israeli forces withdrew from the camp were residents able to transport Maher and the two young men to the hospital. Maher was pronounced dead on arrival.

Taha Ibrahim Mohammad Mahmeed

Taha Ibrahim Mohammad Mahmeed, 15, was standing in front of his house in Al-Malash neighborhood near Nour Shams refugee camp when Israeli forces fired three shots at him, striking him twice, once in the head and one through the eye, on October 19, 2023, according to documentation collected by DCIP. When Taha's father approached his son to bring him inside, Israeli forces shot his father in the





abdomen. Israeli forces prevented ambulances from entering the camp for one hour. Once Taha was finally transported to Thabet Thabet Governmental Hospital, he was pronounced dead upon arrival.

3. Attacks by Israeli settlers

Since October 7, Israeli settlers have killed at least one Palestinian child in the occupied West Bank. In two separate cases, Israeli forces and settlers were firing toward a Palestinian child simultaneously, making it impossible for DCIP to determine which perpetrator fired the fatal bullet.

The historical and continued state-sanctioned violence of Israeli settlers against Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank extends beyond the dispossession of land to the oppression and killing of Palestinians, including children, in daily life. Children are the targets of these frequent and rampant attacks. These surprise attacks by armed Israeli settlers living in illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank are routine and often in collaboration with Israeli forces.

Israeli soldiers routinely attack alongside Israeli settlers and fire live ammunition toward Palestinians, including children, according to documentation collected by DCIP. In other cases, Israeli forces observe Israeli settler attacks without taking action to stop the attacks or to protect Palestinians.

The Israeli government issues firearms to Jewish settlers, many of whom subscribe to ultra-nationalistic beliefs that manifest in extreme violence towards Palestinians, including children. Israeli settlers who attack Palestinians are motivated by the drive to dispossess Palestinians of their land.

Attacks from Israeli settlers have increasingly escalated since October 7, 2023. In the first six weeks after October 7, 225 incidents of settler violence in 93 Palestinian communities were [recorded](#) by Yesh Din, or five incidents on average per day.

By the Israeli military's own policy, Israeli soldiers have a clear duty to intervene and prevent harm to Palestinians, according to [B'Tselem](#). This includes taking immediate action to stop any violent attacks occurring in their presence. If Palestinians are attacked by Israeli civilians, Israeli soldiers must arrest the perpetrator for investigation or report the incident so appropriate action can be taken.

Despite living in the same territory, Palestinians in the occupied West Bank are subject to Israeli military law, while Israeli settlers living illegally in permanent, Jewish-only communities built on Palestinian land are subject to the Israeli civilian legal system. According to [Yesh Din](#), 91 percent of investigations into ideological crimes against Palestinians are closed with no indictments filed.



Legal context

According to the Geneva Conventions, Israel has an obligation as the “Occupying Power” under international humanitarian law to protect the Palestinian population living under Israeli military occupation, yet Israeli forces overwhelmingly fail to intervene to stop or prevent Israeli settler attacks and instead protect Israeli settlers, empowering them to perpetuate violent attacks against the Palestinian civilian population in the West Bank.

Israel as an “Occupying Power” is prohibited from transferring its civilian population into occupied territory.¹ The establishment of Jewish-only Israeli settlements by Israeli authorities and the continued state policy to subsidize, sustain, and expand settlements in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, constitute unlawful transfer of a civilian population into occupied territory in violation of international humanitarian law and constitutes a war crime under the Rome Statute.

DCIP documentation has historically and presently shown how Israel’s land grab strategy works in tandem with its support of extremist Israeli settler violence towards Palestinians and their children. The International Court of Justice in its most recent examination of “the legal consequences arising from the ongoing violation by Israel of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, from its prolonged occupation, settlement and annexation of the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967...” rendered an advisory [opinion](#) on July 19, 2024. In part, it held that Israel’s failure to prevent or punish settler violence is in violation of international law.

“Having examined the evidence before it in light of the relevant provisions of international law, the Court considers that the violence by settlers against Palestinians, Israel’s failure to prevent or to punish it effectively and its excessive use of force against Palestinians contribute to the creation and maintenance of a coercive environment against Palestinians. In the present case, on the basis of the evidence before it, the Court is of the view that Israel’s systematic failure to prevent or to punish attacks by settlers against the life or bodily integrity of Palestinians, as well as Israel’s excessive use of force against Palestinians, is inconsistent with its obligations.”

Immediately after this ruling, in late July 2024, Israeli settlers carried out several violent attacks in the occupied West Bank. In the Palestinian town of [Huwwara](#), near Nablus, Israeli settlers set fire to Palestinian shops and fields. In a series of attacks in [Hebron](#), masked Israeli settlers attacked foreign activists planting olive trees beating them with clubs captured on video. In another instance Israeli settlers brutally attacked a Palestinian woman who had to be hospitalized due to her injuries. There is indication that Israeli soldiers were present during these attacks and did not intervene. The evidence demonstrates that the Israeli government surpasses failure to comply

¹Territory is deemed “occupied” when it, either wholly or in part, is placed under the authority of the hostile army. See Hague Convention (IV): Laws and Customs of War on Land art. 42, Oct 18, 1907, <https://www.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/xsp/.ibmmadres/domino/OpenAttachment/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/4D47F92DF3966A7EC12563CD002D6788/FULLTEXT/IHL-19-EN.pdf>.

Also, in 1967, the U.N. Security Council recognized that Israeli forces had occupied the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. See S.C. Res. 242, U.N. Doc S/RES/242 (Nov. 22, 1967), <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/IP%20S%20RE%20242.pdf>.



with its legal obligations, but is systematically, deliberately, and specifically facilitating extreme settler violence towards Palestinians and their children.

Case studies: Palestinian children attacked by Israeli settlers

Obada Sa'ed Awad Abu Srour

At least seven armed Israeli settlers from the nearby Esh Kodesh settlement accompanied by Israeli soldiers entered the village of Qusra and attacked a Palestinian family's home on October 11, 2023, according to documentation collected by DCIP. Palestinian residents confronted the settlers, then the armed Israeli settlers alongside Israeli soldiers fired live ammunition indiscriminately, striking 17-year-old Obada Sa'ed Awad Abu Srour. A bullet struck Obada in the back and exited his chest. He was declared dead upon arrival at Salfit Governmental Hospital. DCIP could not determine whether the fatal bullet was fired by an Israeli settler or soldier.



Tawfiq Hafez Tawfiq Ajaq



An Israeli settler in a car opened fire on 17-year-old Palestinian-American Tawfiq Hafez Tawfiq Ajaq, who was also in a car, on January 19, 2024 in Al-Mazara'a Al-Sharqiya, east of Ramallah, in the occupied West Bank, according to documentation collected by DCIP. The Israeli settler fired at Tawfiq from about 100 meters (328 feet) away. Tawfiq attempted to drive away while the settler continued to pursue him and opened fire. Simultaneously, an Israeli military vehicle appeared in the opposite direction and opened fire on Tawfiq's car from a distance of 50 to 70 meters (164 to 230 feet), causing Tawfiq's car to veer off and overturn. Israeli forces surrounded Tawfiq's overturned vehicle, preventing those nearby from

assisting him. Once a Palestinian ambulance was permitted to transport Tawfiq to a medical center in Silwad, he was declared dead upon arrival.



4. Aerial attacks

Since October 7, 2023, Israeli military aerial attacks have killed at least 25 Palestinian children in the occupied West Bank, according to documentation collected by DCIP.

Israeli aerial attacks are executed using a variety of aircraft and weaponry including U.S.-sourced Apache attack helicopters, U.S.-sourced Israeli warplanes, and drone-fired missiles. Aerial attacks frequently accompany Israeli ground forces carrying out incursions into dense Palestinian communities, including refugee camps.

These operations are large-scale in scope and damage. In the middle of 2023, Israeli forces introduced aerial attacks in the occupied West Bank for the first time since the Second Intifada in the early 2000s. Since then, dozens of Israeli aerial attacks have targeted and killed Palestinians in the occupied West Bank.

As illustrated in the case studies below, Palestinian children are either the targets or collateral damage of these aerial attacks, highlighting the Israeli military's blatant disregard for international law.

Legal context

Aerial attacks in densely populated areas, such as refugee camps, pose a high risk of civilian casualties, including children, and violate international humanitarian law amounting to wilful killing. The principle of distinction under international humanitarian law demands that all parties to a conflict must at all times distinguish between civilians and combatants. Attacks must only be directed at military objects, including combatants or individuals actively involved in hostilities. The goal of this rule is to ensure that civilians are protected against attacks.

In some cases, Palestinian children seem to be the target of an Israeli aerial attack, indicating that Israeli forces are deliberately targeting children with lethal force. In particular, drone strikes use precision targeting and the Israeli soldiers operating them know precisely who will be struck with the missile.

Aerial attacks that are disproportionate or fail to take necessary precautions to protect civilian life can be considered wilful if there is a clear disregard for the lives of civilians.

Airstrikes that are indiscriminate or target civilians, or the deployment of [explosive weapons](#) in densely populated civilian areas, amount to war crimes. By intentionally directing attacks against civilians, including children, airstrikes and drone strikes are considered war crimes under Article 8(2)(b)(i) of the Rome Statute.

Even if children are not the intended targets, if the airstrike is disproportionate or lacks necessary precautions, it still constitutes a war crime. Israeli military officials are prosecutable for the actions



of their subordinates under the command responsibility doctrine of the Rome Statute if they knew, or should have known, about the crimes and failed to prevent them.

Case studies: Palestinian children killed in Israeli aerial attacks

Israeli warplane: *Mohammad Mousa Mohammad Masimi*



Mohammad Mousa Mohammad Masimi, 14, was killed when an Israeli warplane bombed a building located in the center of the densely populated Balata refugee camp, located near the Palestinian city of Nablus in the occupied West Bank, around 12 a.m. on November 18, 2023, according to documentation collected by DCIP. Mohammad had been seen entering the building shortly before it was targeted. The bodies and limbs of several people were dug from the rubble and transported to Rafidia Governmental Hospital in Nablus, where Mohammad's family eventually was able to identify his remains. Four other Palestinians were killed in the attack.

Drone strike: *Ahmad Tareq No'man Faraj, Walid Ibrahim Mohammad Ghanem, and Ahmad Mousa Mutlaq Beddo*

Ahmad Tareq No'man Faraj, Walid Ibrahim Mohammad Ghanem, and Ahmad Mousa Mutlaq Beddo, all 17 years old, were killed around 10 a.m. on January 17 by an Israeli drone strike during an Israeli military incursion into Tulkarem refugee camp in the northern occupied West Bank, according to documentation collected by DCIP. A drone-fired missile struck the three boys and a young Palestinian man, and Israeli forces prevented ambulances from reaching them for about an hour and a half. Eventually, they were all transferred to Thabet Thabet Governmental Hospital in Tulkarem where doctors pronounced them dead on arrival.

U.S.-sourced Apache attack helicopter: *Yousef Mohammad Omar Zaghdad, Mujahed Mohammad Yousef Sa'aydeh, Udai Ma'moun Khaled Abu Al-Heija, and Sari Udai Ali Al-Sada*

Israeli forces operating a U.S.-sourced Apache attack helicopter fired a missile toward a group of Palestinian civilians, mostly children, around 1:30 p.m. on October 19 in Nour Shams refugee camp, according to documentation collected by DCIP. Ten Palestinians were killed, including four children: 11-year-old Yousef Mohammad Omar Zaghdad, 15-year-old Mujahed Mohammad Yousef Sa'aydeh, 15-year-old Udai Ma'moun Khaled Abu Al-Heija, and 15-year-old Sari Udai Ali Al-Sada. After Israeli forces in an Apache attack helicopter fired a missile at a group of Palestinian civilians, the Israeli military prevented Palestinian ambulances from reaching the injured. Five of the injured Palestinians, including Yousef, Udai, and Sari, were transferred to a nearby hospital in private cars. The remaining Palestinians killed and injured in the attack, including Mujahed, sheltered in a mosque until the Israeli military forces withdrew from Nour Shams refugee camp.



5. Israeli military incursions into Palestinian refugee camps

Since October 7, 2023, Israeli forces have conducted frequent incursions into Palestinian refugee camps, conducting mass arrests and destroying civilian infrastructure and residential buildings. Israeli forces killed at least 49 Palestinian children during these incursions, according to documentation collected by DCIP.

The context of the Palestinian refugee situation stems from the 1947-1948 “Nakba” (or catastrophe) when 700,000 Palestinians were ethnically cleansed from their homes. While refugee camps were created as temporary shelters in the wake of the Nakba, over 75 years later they have become permanent communities in the occupied Palestinian territory. Camps sit on small parcels of land, and as refugee families have nowhere else to go, the camps are now densely populated.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) was established in 1949 by United Nations General Assembly Resolution 302 (IV) “to carry out direct relief and work programmes for Palestine refugees.” UNRWA provides social services that include healthcare and education.

Article 1 of [The 1951 Refugee Convention](#) defines a refugee as someone who is unable or unwilling to return to their home country due to a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. The rights of refugees include the right to non-discrimination, access to courts, education, work, and public relief.

Case study: Jenin refugee camp

Israeli forces have escalated the intensity of their assaults on Jenin refugee camp since October 7, 2023, killing 35 Palestinian children in Jenin area through the end of July 2024, including 16 Palestinian children killed in Jenin refugee camp, according to documentation collected by DCIP.

Israeli military incursions into refugee camps like Jenin are frequent, unpredictable, and deadly. Israeli military forces conduct these large scale invasions with the deployment of ground troops, tanks, trained snipers, large military vehicles, airstrikes and armed drones resulting in significant loss of life and the destruction of homes and infrastructure. While these incursions have occurred all throughout the occupied West Bank, the Israeli military has consistently carried out systematic assaults on Jenin refugee camp since its creation in 1953.

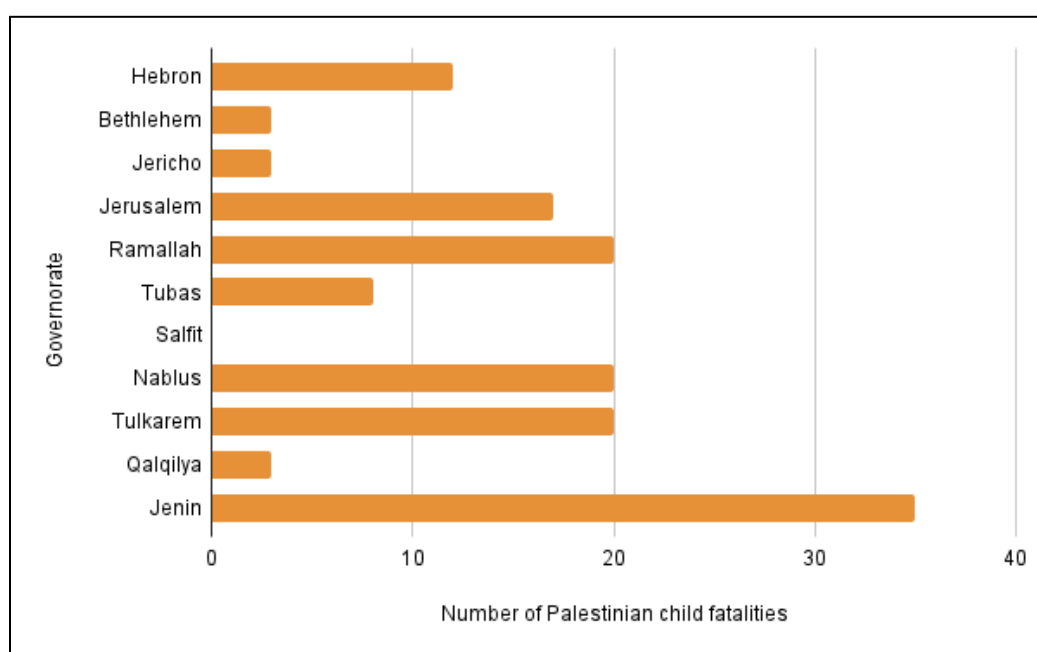
The Israeli military carried out a massive assault on Jenin refugee camp in early 2002 during the Second Intifada, killing at least 52 Palestinians and destroying civilian infrastructure and displacing families, according to [reporting](#) from the United Nations.

As evidence collected by DCIP indicates during this reporting period and previously, attacks on medical personnel and the obstruction of medical assistance by Israeli forces are longstanding practices in Jenin and throughout the occupied West Bank.



In 2022, Israeli soldiers shot and killed Shireen Abu Akleh, a Palestinian-American journalist reporting for Al Jazeera, while covering an Israeli incursion into Jenin refugee camp. She was wearing a clearly identifiable press jacket.

Graph 3: Distribution of Palestinian child fatalities by occupied West Bank governorate between October 7, 2023 and July 31, 2024





Case studies: Palestinian children killed by Israeli forces in Jenin refugee camp between October 7, 2023 and July 31, 2024

Name	Age	Weapon used	Location of injury	Details
Mahmoud Fares Mahmoud Al-Qurini	16	Live Ammunition	Head, chest, abdomen, and foot	Mahmoud was shot and killed by Israeli forces on May 22, 2024 on a road close to Jenin Governmental Hospital in Jenin refugee camp. An Israeli soldier targeted Mahmoud with several bullets after he was chased by two Israeli military vehicles.
Mahmoud Amjad Ismail Hamadneh	15	Live Ammunition	Head, chest, and foot	Mahmoud was shot and killed by Israeli forces on May 21, 2024 on a road near Jenin refugee camp. While Mahmoud was returning home from school on his electric bicycle, an Israeli sniper targeted him with several bullets.
Osama Mohammad Naim Abdulatif Hujair	15	Live Ammunition	Head and hand	Osama was shot and killed by an Israeli sniper on May 21, 2024 in the Khallet Al-Souha neighborhood in Jenin refugee camp. While Osama was riding a motorcycle, an Israeli sniper targeted him with several bullets.
Said Raed Said Jaradat	16	Drone-fired missile	Shrapnel wounds all over his body	Said was struck by an Israeli drone-fired missile on February 22, 2024 in Jenin refugee camp. Two Israeli drone-fired missiles struck a car driven by a Palestinian man wanted by Israeli forces, who was also killed in the attack. Said sustained shrapnel wounds all over his body.
Mousa Ahmad Mousa Khatib	15	Live Ammunition	Chest	Mousa was shot and killed by an Israeli soldier inside the heavily armored military vehicle on December 14 on a main road near Jenin refugee camp.
Mahmoud Khaled Mahmoud Abu Al-Haija	17	Live Ammunition	Abdomen	Mahmoud was shot and killed by an Israeli soldier stationed in a building across the street about 300 meters (984 feet) away on November 25, 2023 while standing at a window inside his house.
Ammar Mohammad Faisal Abu Al-Wafa	14	Live Ammunition	Abdomen	Ammar was shot in the abdomen by an Israeli sniper from a distance of about 200 to 250 meters (656 to 820 feet) on November 25 while he was standing near his house with a group of friends in the Al-Damj neighborhood of Jenin refugee camp.
Lutfi Sayel Mahmoud Turkman	12	Drone-fired missile	Shrapnel wounds and burns all over the body	Lutfi was killed by an Israeli drone-fired missile on November 9 in the Jourat Al-Dahab neighborhood of Jenin refugee camp.



Qais Raed Rafiq Dweikat	14	Drone-fired missile	Shrapnel wounds and burns all over the body	Qais was killed by an Israeli drone-fired missile on November 9 in the Jourat Al-Dahab neighborhood of Jenin refugee camp.
Ahmad Mahmoud Shafiq Khalaf	17	Live Ammunition	Chest	Ahmad was shot and killed by an Israeli sniper on November 9 in the Jourat Al-Dahab neighborhood of Jenin refugee camp.
Yamen Mahmoud Nabil Jarrar	16	Drone-fired missile	Shrapnel wounds and burns all over the body	Yamen was killed by Israeli forces using a drone-fired missile on November 3, west of Jenin refugee camp.
Mousa Khaled Mousa Jabarin	16	Drone-fired missile	Head, neck and chest	Mousa was killed by Israeli forces using a drone-fired missile on October 30 in Jenin refugee camp.
Jawad Abdulsalam Turki Qatban	16	Live Ammunition	Chest	Jawad was shot in the chest by an Israeli sniper on October 27 near Al-Awda roundabout, west of Jenin refugee camp.
Eid Nabil Eid Merei	15	Drone-fired missile	Head, shrapnel wounds and burns all over the body	Eid was killed by an Israeli drone-fired missile on October 25 near a cemetery west of Jenin refugee camp.
Mohammad Qadri Jamal Masoud	16	Drone-fired missile	Back, shrapnel wounds and burns all over the body	Mohammad was killed by an Israeli drone-fired missile on October 25 near a cemetery west of Jenin refugee camp.
Mohammad Anas Mahmoud Abu Qatna	17	Drone-fired missile	Shrapnel wounds and burns all over the body	Mohammad was killed by an Israeli drone-fired missile on October 25 near a cemetery west of Jenin refugee camp.



6. Attacks on protests

In October 2023, Israeli forces shot and killed at least ten unarmed Palestinian children engaged in protests within the context of demonstrations across the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza. In four cases, Israeli forces fatally shot Palestinian children with expanding bullets designed to increase in diameter upon impact, which caused massive internal bleeding.

Immediately following October 7, Palestinians in the occupied West Bank organized and participated in large scale demonstrations in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza under Israeli bombardment. Israeli forces swiftly cracked down on these demonstrations with deadly force.

Legal context

Shooting children engaged in protest and who fail to pose a threat is a violation and grave breach of Article 147, wilful killing, of the Geneva Convention, where children are afforded greater protections as protected persons.

Where sufficient evidence is alleged, the ICC has jurisdiction over Israeli military officials responsible for deliberately targeting children during protests which can be prosecuted as the war crime of willful killing under Article 8 of the Rome Statute. Additionally, attacks on protests may include the intentional targeting of civilians. Specifically, Article 8(2)(b)(i) identifies "[i]ntentionally directing attacks against the civilian population as such or against individual civilians not taking direct part in hostilities" as a war crime.

DCIP documented four Palestinian children killed by Israeli-fired expanding bullets, also known as dum dum bullets, during protests in October 2023. The use of expanding bullets is considered a war crime and is defined by the Rome Statute as "Employing bullets which expand or flatten easily in the human body, such as bullets with a hard envelope which does not entirely cover the core or is pierced with incisions."

Israel is a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) where the right of peaceful assembly is explicitly recognized and protected. Article 21 states that no restrictions may be placed on this right other than those imposed in conformity with the law and which are necessary in a democratic society. Furthermore, the use of firearms should be limited to extreme circumstances, such as in self-defense or defense of others against imminent threat of death or serious injury.



Case studies: Palestinian children killed by Israeli forces during protests in October 2023

Name	Age	Weapon used	Location of injury	Details
Yamen Kamal Ahmad Al-Atiq	17	Expanding bullet	Chest	Yamen succumbed to his wounds on October 29 after being shot by an Israeli sniper in front of the Grand Mosque of Jenin during a demonstration in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza on October 27.
Omar Ahmad Abdulrahman Asmar	14	Expanding bullet	Thigh	Omar was shot by Israeli forces on October 13 in Zeita during a march toward the Israeli separation wall.
Amir Rafat Mahmoud Mlaitat	13	Live ammunition	Right eye	Amir was shot and killed on October 13 by Israeli forces firing toward Palestinians demonstrating in solidarity with Gaza near Beit Furik.
Laith Osama Zaal Abu Mara	17	Live ammunition	Chest	Laith was found with a gunshot wound to the chest on October 13 in Al-Issawiya, East Jerusalem.
Ayham Iyad Issa Jabarin	17	Expanding bullet	Head	Ayham was shot and killed by Israeli forces on October 13 in Al-Ram.
Hussain Mutaz Hussain Mousa	16	Live ammunition	Head	Hussain was found dead with a gunshot wound to the back of his head on October 13 in Beit Liqya after participating in a demonstration.
Mohammad Taher Ali Mustafa	17	Live ammunition	Chest	Mohammad was shot and killed by Israeli forces on October 13 during confrontations between Palestinian youth and Israeli forces in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Al-Issawiya.
Rafat Thaer Ahmad Abu Mhana	17	Live ammunition	Head and back	Rafat was shot and killed by Israeli forces on October 13 in Tulkarem during a demonstration in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza.
Obada Sa'ed Awad Abu Srour	17	Live ammunition	Back	Israeli forces and settlers fired simultaneously toward Obada, who was struck with a bullet in the back, on October 11 in Qusra.
Mo'nes Rebhi Mousa Zeidat	16	Live ammunition	Chest	Mo'nes was shot by Israeli forces on October 11 in Bani Naim town.
Mohammad Rafat Mohammad Edwan	16	Expanding bullet	Shoulder	Mohammad was shot by Israeli forces on October 10 during confrontations with Israeli soldiers in Faroun town.



7. Confiscation of children's bodies

Israeli authorities have confiscated the bodies of 18 Palestinian children killed by Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank between October 7, 2023, and July 31, 2024, according to documentation collected by DCIP.

Israeli authorities' practice of confiscating and withholding Palestinian bodies is a violation of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, which include absolute prohibitions on cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, as well as stipulate that parties of an armed conflict must bury the deceased in an honorable way.

Israeli forces have withheld the bodies of at least 38 Palestinian children since June 2016, according to documentation collected by DCIP. Five of the children's bodies have since been released to their families, while 33 Palestinian children's bodies remain withheld by Israeli authorities.

In September 2019, the Israeli Supreme Court approved the practice of confiscating human remains after several legal challenges to the policy. On November 27, 2019, Israeli Defense Minister Naftali Bennett ordered all bodies of Palestinians alleged to have attacked Israeli citizens or soldiers to be withheld and not returned to their families. Israel is the only country in the world with such a policy.

Israel has been and continues to withhold bodies from family members preventing burial as a form of psychological torture or potential negotiating leverage or both. For families, the practice amounts to collective punishment in violation of international humanitarian law.



Case studies: Palestinian children's bodies withheld by Israeli authorities

Adam Naser Mahmoud Abulhawa

Adam Naser Mahmoud Abulhawa, 17, was fatally shot by Israeli forces around 11:30 a.m. on October 30, 2023 after he allegedly stabbed an Israeli soldier in the Al-Musrara neighborhood in East Jerusalem, according to documentation collected by DCIP. Around 2 p.m., Israeli forces searched Adam's family's home, damaged their furniture, tore up documents including their identification cards and passports, then arrested Adam's parents and all of his siblings. His family members remained in detention until 10 p.m. that night, when they were all released. Adam's parents were summoned again for interrogation around 8:30 a.m. on October 31 and were released at 12:30 p.m. Israeli authorities confiscated Adam's body.

Hamza Zaied Abed Sawafta

17-year-old Hamza Zaied Abed Sawafta was shot while driving at Israel's Tayasir military checkpoint, according to documentation collected by DCIP. Hamza was allegedly driving an unregistered vehicle. When Hamza did not line up in the vehicle queue at the checkpoint, Israeli forces began shooting at his car. Hamza complied with the soldiers shouting demands to get out of the vehicle. After placing his hands above his head and sitting on the ground, Israeli forces proceeded to fire at Hamza. They shot him from a distance of less than 20 meters (65 feet).

Nour Nizar Adib Shehabi

Nour Nizar Adib Shehabi, 17, was shot and killed by Israeli paramilitary border police around 3:05 a.m. on May 16, 2024 near Herod's Gate on Salahaddin street in East Jerusalem, according to documentation collected by DCIP. Israeli forces alleged that Nour attempted to carry out a stabbing attack before they shot and killed him. After shooting Nour, Israeli authorities confiscated his body and transported it to an unknown location in an Israeli ambulance.

Ruqaya Ahmad Odeh Jahalin



Ruqaya Ahmad Odeh Jahalin, four, was shot in the back by Israeli forces around 5:30 p.m. on January 7 while sitting in the backseat of a shared taxi van near an Israeli military checkpoint near the Palestinian village of Beit Iksa, northwest of Jerusalem in the central occupied West Bank. After Ruqaya and her mother drove through the checkpoint, a car driving about 40 meters (131 feet) behind them did not stop for inspection by Israeli forces. Israeli forces opened fire on both vehicles, striking Ruqaya in the back. An Israeli military ambulance transported Ruqaya and her mother to the checkpoint, where Ruqaya's father met them. Israeli forces interrogated Ruqaya's father before allowing him to leave without releasing Ruqaya's body. Her body was returned to the family approximately 10

days later on January 16, 2024.



9. Conclusions

Israeli forces are deliberately targeting Palestinian children in the occupied West Bank as the death toll soars after October 7, 2023 with no end in sight. The numbers alone are alarming: 20 percent of all of the Palestinian children killed by Israeli forces and settlers in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem since 2000 were killed in the last ten months.

Palestinian children are not numbers, and their lives and deaths are more than evidence to be collected. Each Palestinian child killed by Israeli forces and settlers was their family's entire universe, and each killing rips a hole in a family and community that can never be repaired. Their families are left not only to grieve their child's life, but also their future, and their lost opportunity to grow up with their friends, siblings, cousins, and classmates to live in a free and thriving Palestinian society.

Israeli forces have killed Palestinian children without restraint or consequence for decades, as documentation collected by DCIP indicates. The international community has largely stood by and either watched or turned away entirely. The United States and other countries, primarily in the west, have continued to send weapons, technology, and funding to the Israeli military which is used to kill Palestinian children in the occupied West Bank at a rate of one every two days.

In this report, evidence and documentation collected by DCIP indicate that Israeli forces are deliberately targeting Palestinian children with the intent to unleash cruel and degrading treatment up until the moment of the child's death. Israeli authorities, which have the ability to hold Israeli soldiers and military officials accountable, are unwilling to take action to stop the killing of Palestinian children. Therefore, we must look to the international community to use all available means to protect Palestinian children and seek justice.

Key findings

1. 20 percent of the Palestinian children killed by Israeli forces and settlers in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, since 2000 have been killed after October 7, 2023 at a rate of one child every two days.
2. Israeli forces deliberately target and shoot unarmed children with live ammunition and trained snipers. Israeli forces and settlers shot and killed 116 Palestinian children in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, between October 7, 2023 and July 31, 2024.
3. Israeli forces and authorities systematically deny Palestinian children their right to medical care when preventing ambulances, paramedics, or bystanders from providing medical care to a child shot with live ammunition or struck in an Israeli airstrike. In 43 percent of cases in this report, Israeli forces deliberately prevented injured Palestinian children from receiving medical care by detaining and firing live ammunition toward ambulances, paramedics, and civilians attempting to provide aid.
4. Israeli authorities and forces systematically, deliberately, and specifically embolden Israeli settler violence towards Palestinian children. Israeli forces present during armed Israeli



settler attacks fail to prevent the aggression, fail to help the Palestinian victims, and often collaborate with the settlers in inflicting lethal harm. In two cases, Israeli forces and settlers fired toward Palestinian children simultaneously, and DCIP was unable to determine which perpetrator fired the fatal bullet.

5. Israeli forces have killed 25 Palestinian children in aerial attacks in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, between October 7, 2023 and July 31, 2024. Some children were directly targeted while others were collateral damage as Israeli forces deployed aerial attacks in densely populated civilian areas.
6. Israeli forces killed at least 49 Palestinian children during the intensified large-scale and deadly incursions into Palestinian refugee camps in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, between October 7, 2023 and July 31, 2024.
7. The fatal shootings of child protesters in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza and the use of expanding bullets during the crackdowns constitute war crimes prosecutable at the ICC. In October 2023, Israeli forces shot and killed four Palestinian children with expanding bullets designed to increase in size upon impact, inflicting fatal internal injuries.
8. Israeli authorities' practice of confiscating and withholding Palestinian bodies is a violation of international humanitarian law and international criminal law, which include absolute prohibitions on cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment. Israeli authorities have confiscated 18 Palestinian children's bodies in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, between October 7, 2023 and July 31, 2024.
9. Israeli authorities work to ensure Israeli forces continue enjoying impunity and face no consequence for the extrajudicial killing of Palestinian children. There are no known accounts of accountability during this reporting period.

Demands for the international community

1. Enact an immediate and comprehensive arms embargo alongside diplomatic and financial pressure to pressure Israeli authorities and forces to end the genocide of Palestinians in Gaza, the Israeli apartheid regime, and the Israeli military occupation of the occupied Palestinian territory;
2. Investigate allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity, as well as support investigations by the International Criminal Court, in order to hold perpetrators accountable.
3. Use all available means, including those above, to demand Israeli authorities to uphold Palestinian children's rights as outlined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which the State of Israel has ratified.