

FACTS on Palestinian Children and Armed Conflict

April 2015

Each year, the United Nations issues the Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict. The report has an annex where grave violators against children in armed conflict are listed. Children must be protected during armed conflict and holding perpetrators of violations accountable is essential for ensuring justice and for averting future crimes and protecting children in all circumstances. The United Nations Security Council identified six categories of grave violations to advance these goals. Qualifying for just one of the six categories is grounds for being added to the list. The six categories are:

- Killing and maiming of children;
- Recruitment or use of children as soldiers;
- Sexual violence against children;
- Attacks against schools or hospitals;
- Denial of humanitarian access for children;
- Abduction of children.

Israel systematically violates 3 of the 6 categories used to assess grave violations against children

- 1) Israeli occupying forces engage in a pattern of ***killing and maiming children***.
 - Israel's last war on the Gaza Strip alone in July-August 2014 ***killed*** at least **540** Palestinian children, constituting 20 percent of the civilian casualties.
 - Thousands of Palestinian children were injured by the Israeli occupying forces, with at least 1,000 children permanently disabled in that same war.
 - Hundreds of child casualties have been caused by Israel in other military assaults against the Palestinian civilian population and a result of the systematic use of excessive force against civilians
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 - ***Attacks*** in the occupied West Bank by Israeli ***occupying forces*** and extremist settlers ***injured almost 1200 Palestinian children in 2014 alone***.
- 2) Israel, the occupying Power, ***deliberately targets schools and hospitals***.
 - In the last war against Gaza, the Israeli government ***attacked and damaged 279 schools*** and ***75 health centers and hospitals*** despite having repeatedly received the precise locations of hospitals, medical centers, and schools, including UNRWA schools where it was fully aware that families had been sheltering.
 - Israel systematically ***destroys Palestinian homes and civilian properties*** in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, rendering ***thousands upon thousands of families' homeless, forcibly displacing*** them, ***and leaving children in a state of perpetual insecurity and trauma***.
- 3) Israel ***denies humanitarian access*** to the entire occupied Palestinian people, endangering the well-being and survival of Palestinian children.
 - Since 2007, Israel has subjected the more than ***1.8 million civilians*** in Gaza to an illegal, immoral ***blockade***. ***52% of the population are children***.

The State of Palestine appeals to States to consider seriously these facts and to call on the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children in Armed Conflict, Ms. Leila Zerrougui, and Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to encourage the addition of the Israeli Occupying Forces in the list that is annexed to the Annual Report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict for committing grave violations against Palestinian children as an important and necessary step towards holding the perpetrators of such crimes against children responsible for their actions, contributing to the efforts to end impunity, and protecting children in all situations of armed conflict without exception.