

**FOSNA Report 2015:  
G4S and Child Detention**



(Img: Al-Arabiya)

## G4S and Child Detention

May 2015

This report was written and published by Friends of Sabeel —North America (FOSNA),

It is intended to provide a brief summary of the history of G4S, a timeline of its acquisition of multiple security firms, and the context of its primary engagement within the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt).

The report offers information from FOSNA's on-going research on public contracts held by G4S in the United States, highlighting its presence within certain industries. We hope to encourage continued outside research on G4S' contracts within North America that may be used in a domestic divestment campaign.

However, this report is primarily dedicated to exposing where G4S operates within Israel/Palestine and the manner in which the company is involved in the arrest, detention, torture, and control of Palestinian children as an extension of the occupation. Through the lens of the information provided, this report outlines FOSNA's 2015 campaign, *No Child Behind Bars/Drop G4S* and its intended goals. It includes an extensive list of details to underline in educational presentations on child detention in the oPt/Israel and in related community actions, and it also highlights ways to directly engage G4S in order to pressure the company to drop its contracts in the occupation industry in Israel/Palestine.

We contribute this information with the goal of pressuring G4S to cease complicity in the Israeli occupation of Palestine by highlighting existing contracts in the US, Israel, and the oPt and the ways in which we can hold the corporation accountable.

For any questions or commentary, please contact:  
[advocacy@fosna.org](mailto:advocacy@fosna.org)

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## Part I: Background information on G4S worldwide and its involvement with child detention and prisons in Palestine

### What Is G4S?

G4S plc was formerly known as Group 4 Securicor. It is headquartered in the UK and was formed in 2004 after a large-scale merger between the British company Securicor plc with the Danish company Group 4 Falck as part of a securitization reaction to the events of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001. The Danish group had expanded its operations before this merger, making two major purchases in 2002: the Florida based Wackenhut Corporation<sup>1</sup> and Hashmira<sup>2</sup>, one of Israel's largest private security companies<sup>3</sup>, now known as "G4S Israel"<sup>4</sup>. Since their founding in 2004, G4S has bought out many private security companies worldwide. Notably, in 2010, G4S purchased "Aminut Moked Artzi"<sup>5</sup>, one of the oldest private security companies in Israel.<sup>6</sup>

G4S is one of the largest private sector employers in the world and, measured in revenue, it is the world's largest security company<sup>7</sup>. It operates in 125 different countries and has over 620,000 employees. South African businessman Ashley Almanza has been the CEO of G4S since June 2013<sup>8</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.nytimes.com/2002/03/09/business/company-news-expanding-in-us-falck-buys-wackenhut-security.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://whoprofits.org/sites/default/files/WhoProfits-PrivateSecurity-G4S.pdf>,

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.corporatewatch.org/sites/default/files/G4S\\_profile\\_Sep12.pdf](http://www.corporatewatch.org/sites/default/files/G4S_profile_Sep12.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [http://duns100.dunb.co.il/comp\\_eng\\_600012918/G4S\\_Israel\\_%28Hashmira\\_Group%29/](http://duns100.dunb.co.il/comp_eng_600012918/G4S_Israel_%28Hashmira_Group%29/) [

<sup>5</sup> which provided services to businesses in Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank.

<sup>6</sup> <http://electronicintifada.net/blogs/adri-nieuwhof/security-firm-g4s-provides-services-israeli-prisons-police-andarmy>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.g4s.com/en/Media%20Centre/Key%20facts%20and%20figures/>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/business/2013/may/21/g4s-nick-buckles-quits>

## What They Do in Israel (A Summary):

- G4S Israel is one of the major security system providers to the Israeli government, including the Ministry of Defense building (“HaKirya”) in Tel Aviv<sup>9</sup>.
- In 2007, the Israeli subsidiary of G4S signed a contract<sup>10</sup> with the Israel Prison Service<sup>11,12</sup> to provide security services for Israeli prisons where “Palestinian political prisoners, including children, are held without trial and subjected to torture.”<sup>13,14</sup>
- In 2010 G4S’ ex-CEO Nick Buckles claimed that G4S held contracts in the West Bank to provide these services:
  - Providing a small number of security officers within retail and banking outlets
  - Monitoring home security systems
  - Maintaining security systems at a prison, a police station and a small number of checkpoints in the West Bank.<sup>15</sup>
- However, Buckles’ comments minimized the true scale to which G4S was already involved in the occupation industry by 2010<sup>16</sup>, such as the extensive contract with Ofer prison, under which G4S operates a control room for the entire prison complex, the military court, and the surrounding area leading up to the walls, all of which was contracted in 2007.
- Currently operations go beyond what was the case in 2010, including the following:
  - G4S’ services for settlement businesses have expanded throughout the entire Barkan Industrial Zone as part of the Ariel settlement block<sup>17</sup>, established in 1982, and it has become the second largest industrial zone in the West Bank<sup>18</sup>.
  - Many Palestinians are presently employed within the 16 settlement industry zones, with original expectations to employ 150,000-200,000 Palestinians<sup>19</sup>, “nearly the same number that used to travel daily to Israel to work before the second *intifada*”<sup>20</sup>.
  - According to official statistics, over 20,000 Palestinians are employed in the settlements<sup>21</sup>, with thousands more working without permits. Rights groups say

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.whoprofits.org/company/g4s-israel-hashmira>

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.* (<http://whoprofits.org/sites/default/files/WhoProfits-PrivateSecurity-G4S.pdf>)

<sup>11</sup> <http://electronicintifada.net/blogs/adri-nieuwhof/no-mothers-day-women-held-g4s-equipped-prisons>

<sup>12</sup> <http://electronicintifada.net/blogs/michael-deas/palestinian-organisations-call-action-against-g4s-over-role-israeli-jails>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.bdsmovement.net/activecamps/g4s>

<sup>14</sup> [http://www.stoptorture.org.il/files/PCATI\\_eng\\_web.pdf](http://www.stoptorture.org.il/files/PCATI_eng_web.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> [http://business-humanrights.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/company\\_responses/g4s-israel-apr-24-2012.pdf](http://business-humanrights.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/company_responses/g4s-israel-apr-24-2012.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> [http://www.globalexchange.org/sites/default/files/WP\\_RTOP.pdf](http://www.globalexchange.org/sites/default/files/WP_RTOP.pdf)

<sup>17</sup> <https://corporateoccupation.wordpress.com/2010/05/21/working-for-shamir-salads-in-barkan-industrial-zone/>

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.bisan.org/en/>

<sup>19</sup> Leila Farsakh, “Palestinian Labor Flows to the Israeli Economy: A Finished Story?” *Journal of Palestine Studies* 32/1 (Autumn 2002).

<sup>20</sup> [http://jffp.com/?p=19122#\\_ftn4](http://jffp.com/?p=19122#_ftn4)

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2014/02/settlements-palestinians-occupation-israel-sodastream.html#>

settlement businesses, which enjoy government subsidies and tax breaks<sup>22</sup>, “routinely exploit workers”<sup>23</sup>.

- G4S has posted private security personnel<sup>24</sup> at construction sites for settlements and the separation wall<sup>25</sup>.
- The company’s operations in the West Bank are not “small” regionally, even though only 1 percent of G4S employees work inside of Israel<sup>26</sup>.
- Hashmira (now G4S Israel) provides security services in Israel and the occupied territories as well as security technology<sup>27</sup> for the apartheid wall and Israeli military checkpoints<sup>28</sup>.
- The wide-ranging involvement of G4S within the West Bank casts a broad shadow over their dubious claim that they will pull out of providing for prison and barrier checkpoints by 2015<sup>29</sup>.

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<sup>22</sup> Israeli labor watchdog Kav LaOved says though Israeli labor laws, including the minimum wage, are supposed to apply in the settlements, there is no enforcement on the ground.

<sup>23</sup> <http://palestinakomitee.no/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/employment-of-palestinians-in-Israel.pdf>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.addameer.org/etemplate.php?id=460>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8u7yBhaUMI>

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/business/2013/jun/06/israel-prison-contracts-g4s-agm>

<sup>27</sup> [www.corporatewatch.org/?lid=3500](http://www.corporatewatch.org/?lid=3500) and <http://whoprofits.org/company/rapiscan-systems>

<sup>28</sup> “Hashmira is also the Israeli representative of Rapiscan, a US subsidiary of OSI systems, which supplies security scanners to several Israeli checkpoints”: [http://www.corporatewatch.org/sites/default/files/G4S\\_profile\\_Sep12.pdf](http://www.corporatewatch.org/sites/default/files/G4S_profile_Sep12.pdf)

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.



*(Palestine's Children: Across the Spectrum)*



*(Ilustrasi)*

## Part II: G4S in regional context

### a) Domestic market (USA)

- Across the United States are city, state, county, federal and other public contracts with G4S.
- G4S buys up contracts and independent security companies in the US and globally in order to expand into markets that those companies previously held.
  - This creates a monopoly on the industrial complex of incarcerating human beings.
- G4S is complicit in the economies of domestic child detention and border violence<sup>30</sup>.
  - G4S runs US juvenile detention facilities, guards courthouses and public transportation systems, operates deportation buses between the US Mexican border, and more.
- G4S has in the past held contracts in Guantanamo Bay.<sup>3132</sup>

<sup>30</sup><http://www.thenation.com/article/196017/why-israeli-defense-contractor-building-virtual-wall-arizona-desert#>

<sup>31</sup> <http://rt.com/uk/221695-g4s-illegal-conduct-guantanamo/>

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.opendemocracy.net/ourkingdom/clare-sambrook/nice-work-g4s-wins-118-million-guant%C3%A1namo-contract>



(G4S Located USA: FOSNA 2015, fosna.org/g4s)



(G4S Located Florida Zoom-In: FOSNA 2015, fosna.org/g4s)



- Such contracts are part of a global pattern,<sup>333435</sup> and it is important to gather information on every aspect of this sphere.
- This report will focus specifically on G4S and child detention in Palestine.
- In order to leverage our power to stop the abuses of G4S globally, we suggest that local groups and US national organizations join us in targeting public contracts with G4S (outlined in Part III of this report).
  - FOSNA has started research on contracts around local communities and within states where we have an existing presence, but there are many more contracts yet to be uncovered!
- **Think there is a G4S contract in your area?** FOSNA is happy to help you research them.
- At the end of this report is a list of known public G4S contracts in the USA, including the city, state, and name of the G4S office directly in charge as well as the name of the institutional body that requested the contract.
  - The list also features the known beginning dates of each contract as well as the renewal dates (though some of this information has not yet been provided)
  - The final two columns of the list include our sources of information
- The list is not exhaustive and will continue to grow with community-led research from people and/or groups like YOU.
- Steps to researching these contracts include ----
  - **Step 1** Set up early warning signals: tentative contracts are much easier to win than signed contracts. Make use of Google Alerts, your municipality's procurement office bidding announcements, and friendships with union officials or local government officials, who are often "in the know".
  - **Step 2** Use the FOSNA<sup>36</sup> or AFSC<sup>37</sup> databases, which will allow you to use the work that has already been done by other activists, to see if there is a local contract in your area.
  - **Step 3** Research the local paper's archives or go to the government documents section of your local public library to find any activities by your target in relation to local government. Keep track of specific names if mentioned; the revolving door is stronger in local government but harder to track. Ask your local librarians; they can be a tremendous resource!

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<sup>33</sup> Tonkin, H. (2011). *State control over private military and security companies in armed conflict*. Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.opendemocracy.net/ourkingdom/james-pattison/hazards-of-going-to-war-for-profit> and <http://business-humanrights.org/en/g4s?page=4>

<sup>35</sup> Kinsey, C., & Patterson, M. (2012). *Contractors and War : The Transformation of United States' Expeditionary Operations*. Stanford University Press.

<sup>36</sup> <http://fosna.org/g4s>

<sup>37</sup> <http://investigate.afsc.org/>

- **Step 4** Check your target's hiring page. If there are local jobs being solicited, in all likelihood there are active contracts, and calling in to "get more info" on a particular position may be revealing.
- **Step 5** Look or call the locations in question to ask who the security guards are contracted by and if they are G4S.  
Or simply look for the G4S logo!
  - Popular locations may be: the social security office, airport, courthouses, probation department office, city jail, and transportation department.
  - If you do find a guard at one of these offices, go the city or county clerk and to ask for more information. Try to find out what you can without filing an official request for information form. Requests for information have a longer response time than informal checks.
- **Step 6** If you can't find any information, please contact [advocacy@fosna.org](mailto:advocacy@fosna.org) so that someone may follow up with you.



(image by Samidoun)

## b) Israel/Palestine

*“G4S is an accomplice in Israel’s use of mass incarceration as a way to dissuade Palestinians from resisting its apartheid system” -BDS Movement<sup>38</sup>*



(Photograph: Ronen Zvulun/Reuters)

<sup>38</sup> Ibid. (<http://www.bdsmovement.net/activecamps/g4s>)

## Breaking a Generation

- Israel practices a systematic policy of arresting, detaining, and torturing<sup>3940</sup> Palestinian children<sup>41</sup>. According to statistics by Defence for Children International (DCI), Israeli soldiers take an average of two children from their beds every night. They are not allowed to see family or a lawyer, are violently interrogated, and are tried in a military court. According to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, this is a violation of human rights law. The systematic attack on children and their parents in Gaza and the West Bank traumatizes an entire generation in an attempt to limit Palestinian self-determination.
- Two of the three prisons that hold Palestinian children are located inside of Israel.

*Sometimes one day in prison felt like a year.  
But after ten days you get used to it and  
don't cry as much.*

*Odeh Abu Za'anonah, aged 15  
Interview from Save The Children, Sweden<sup>42</sup>*

- Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association is an NGO based in Jerusalem, which offers civil support for Palestinian prisoners and torture victims<sup>43</sup>.
- An organizer at Addameer highlighted the aspects of child detention that are most worrying to the organization, which include the isolation of children during detention from their parents and their lawyers and keeping these interested parties ignorant of the child's location, in violation of international law. In addition, torture and abuse<sup>44</sup> are carried out against the child in the interrogation process and this is used to extract a confession.
  - They highlighted the fact that a recent UNICEF report referred to this as *ill treatment* when it is actually *torture*. They also highlighted the challenges children face after their release: for example, children are forced after a period out to retake a school year, which puts them with younger students, and discourages them.

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<sup>39</sup> <http://electronicintifada.net/blogs/adri-nieuwhof/children-beaten-and-blindfolded-israeli-troops>

<sup>40</sup> [http://www.dci-palestine.org/sites/default/files/report\\_0.pdf](http://www.dci-palestine.org/sites/default/files/report_0.pdf) (especially see map pgs. 75-84)

<sup>41</sup> <http://www.dci-palestine.org/documents/case-summaries-2013>

<sup>42</sup> <http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/sites/default/files/documents/2443.pdf>

<sup>43</sup> <http://www.addameer.org/>

<sup>44</sup> <http://www.derechos.org/human-rights/mena/doc/torture.html>

- The multinational corporation, G4S, provides surveillance and infrastructure for multiple Israeli prisons that hold child prisoners<sup>45</sup>. G4S profits from and facilitates the Israeli occupation of Palestine by bolstering Israel's child detention policies<sup>46,47</sup>.

*“Throughout my detention period by the occupation authorities, I was denied heavy clothing; they let me freeze. They did not care that I was an eighth-grader, and the prison administration refused to let me have any school books,” the teenager added. –Malak Al-Khatib, aged 14 via Al-Monitor<sup>48</sup>, February 26, 2015*

## G4S in Israel/Palestine

- G4S provides security systems to the Israeli armored corps base of Nachshonim, an Oslo-era base<sup>49</sup> established at the northeast of Shoham<sup>50</sup>.
  - G4S operates patrol units, which secure vehicles and transport routes, buildings and security equipment<sup>51</sup>.
  - These units, as the company states, are manned by “warriors who graduated elite combat units in the Israeli army.”<sup>52</sup>
- In 2007 G4S signed a contract to provide security systems for the Ofer, Megiddo, Ketziot, and Damon prisons, and the Al-Jalame (Kishon), and Moskobiyyeh (“Russian Compound”) detention facilities.
  - The company installed a central command room in the Megiddo prison.
  - G4S’s technological division provides the security system for the Al-Jalame detention facility, where many interrogations of children take place<sup>53</sup>. The facility is also known for its solitary confinement unit.
  - G4S provides the entire security system for the Ketziot prison<sup>54</sup>.

<sup>45</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8u7yBhaUMI>

<sup>46</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jun/04/g4s-complicity-israel-abuse-child-prisoners>

<sup>47</sup> <https://secure.waronwant.org/ea-action/action?ea.client.id=1819&ea.campaign.id=28710&ea.tracking.id=web>

<sup>48</sup> <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2015/02/israel-palestinian-prisoners-children-human-rights-violation.html#ixzz3ZB7nL8fz>

<sup>49</sup> <http://www.jpost.com/Israel/Wye-era-base-built-by-US-set-to-open>

<sup>50</sup> majority funded by the US army in accordance with the Wye River Memorandum

[http://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/file/resources/collections/peace\\_agreements/wye\\_10231998.pdf](http://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/file/resources/collections/peace_agreements/wye_10231998.pdf)

<sup>51</sup> <http://www.whoprofits.org/company/g4s-israel-hashmira>

<sup>52</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>53</sup> <http://whoprofits.org/sites/default/files/WhoProfits-PrivateSecurity-G4S.pdf>

<sup>54</sup> [http://stopg4s.net/sites/default/files/G4S\\_child\\_detention.pdf](http://stopg4s.net/sites/default/files/G4S_child_detention.pdf)

- Ketziot and Megiddo prisons hold Palestinian political prisoners from the oPt inside of Israel, in direct violation of Articles 49 and 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention<sup>55</sup>.
- G4S Israel clearly indicates that it operates in prisons that hold “security prisoners” (i.e., Palestinian political prisoners)<sup>56</sup>.
- Human rights organizations have collected evidence showing that Palestinian prisoners experience torture routinely in these facilities<sup>57</sup>.
- Ketziot Prison is the biggest incarceration facility in Israel<sup>58</sup>, with the exception of Holot Detention Center<sup>59</sup> in the Negev desert, where Israel detains mainly African asylum seekers and other paperless African immigrants.
- The Megiddo and Damon prisons are the next largest in terms of numbers of people held<sup>60</sup>.
  - Palestinian female prisoners are mostly held<sup>61</sup> in Damon<sup>62</sup> prison and HaSharon<sup>63</sup> compound, both locations where G4S holds security contracts<sup>64</sup>.
  - G4S Israel provides the security systems and central control room in the HaSharon compound where Rimonim prison is located<sup>65</sup>.
  - Rimonim prison holds mostly civil criminals but includes a wing for Palestinian political prisoners<sup>66</sup>.
- G4S Israel also installed peripheral defense systems on the walls surrounding Ofer prison and operates a control room for the entire compound<sup>67</sup>.
  - The Ofer compound is located in the West Bank near the settlement of Givat Ze’ev<sup>68</sup>.
  - The compound includes a military court, which judges detainees from the West Bank on a daily basis.

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<sup>55</sup> Article 49 and Article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention both prohibit the transfer of prisoners from occupied territory into the territory of the occupier.  
<https://www.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/4e473c7bc8854f2ec12563f60039c738/77068f12b8857c4dc12563cd0051bdb0> and

<https://www.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/1a13044f3bbb5b8ec12563fb0066f226/8b92ce0a4577615ac12563cd0042cf18>

<sup>56</sup> Ibid.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid.

<sup>58</sup> <http://int.icej.org/news/headlines/palestinian-prisoners-riot-ketziot>

<sup>59</sup> <http://assaf.org.il/en/tags/holot-detention-center>

<sup>60</sup> <http://www.imemc.org/article/67742>

<sup>61</sup> <http://electronicintifada.net/blogs/adri-nieuwhof/no-mothers-day-women-held-g4s-equipped-prisons>

<sup>62</sup> <http://addameer.org/etemplate.php?id=295>

<sup>63</sup> <http://stopg4s.net/action-alerts>

<sup>64</sup> The Damon contract began in 2007. We are unclear if the HaSharon contract began at the same time.

<sup>65</sup> <http://www.democraciaycooperacion.net/espacio-colaborativo/norte-de-afrika-oriente-medio/traduccion-476/english-477/article/corporate-complicity-in-israeli>

<sup>66</sup> Ibid.

<sup>67</sup> Ibid. (<http://whoprofits.org/sites/default/files/WhoProfits-PrivateSecurity-G4S.pdf>)

<sup>68</sup> Ibid.

- G4S also provides equipment<sup>69</sup> such as “computerized control and monitoring systems, entrance and visitation control systems, control rooms with touch screens, internal and external CCTV [closed circuit TV] monitoring and recording systems and optic fiber communication lines...fire and smoke detection systems and metal detector gates”<sup>70</sup> for the Moskobiyyeh detention facility (“The Russian Compound”) in Jerusalem, where human rights organizations have documented systematic torture<sup>7172</sup> and ill treatment of Palestinian prisoners<sup>737475</sup>, including children<sup>76</sup>.
  - Moskobiyyeh (sometimes written as Al-Mascobiyya), as well as Al-Jalame Prison<sup>77</sup> in Haifa and the Petah Tikva interrogation center<sup>78</sup> 6.59 miles east of Tel Aviv, are notorious for placing children in solitary confinement.



(Above: Different methods of torture<sup>79</sup> commonly used on Palestinian prisoners<sup>80</sup>, such as “The Banana Position”<sup>81</sup> on the far left: B’Tselem<sup>82</sup>, illustrations by Ishai Mishory)

*“Someone is pounding on the door. It is 3:45 a.m. The pounding gets louder. The father goes to open the door, and immediately they enter: two men dressed in civilian clothes, flanked by police officers bearing heavy guns. They go straight towards the boy, who has pulled on a baggy sweatshirt and stepped out of his room, snake their hands under his arms, and take him. “He will only be gone for a*

<sup>69</sup> Ibid.

<sup>70</sup> <http://electronicintifada.net/blogs/adri-nieuwhof/rights-activist-still-held-jerusalem-jail-equipped-g4s>

<sup>71</sup> Ibid.

<sup>72</sup> Ibid. ([http://www.stoptorture.org.il/files/PCATI\\_eng\\_web.pdf](http://www.stoptorture.org.il/files/PCATI_eng_web.pdf))

<sup>73</sup> Case study of Ayman Nasser, (Adult): <http://www.addameer.org/etemplate.php?id=530> and <http://samidoun.ca/2012/page/2/>

<sup>74</sup> <http://electronicintifada.net/blogs/adri-nieuwhof/shabak-tortures-and-ill-treats-palestinian-detainees-impunity>

<sup>75</sup> Case study of Arafat Jaradat, tortured to death under G4S surveillance systems during interrogation in Israeli prison: <http://mondoweiss.net/2014/04/israeli-occupation-profiteer> and <http://mondoweiss.net/2013/02/autopsy-revealed-torture> and <http://www.haaretz.com/weekend/week-s-end/what-killed-arafat-jaradat.premium-1.506629>

<sup>76</sup> <http://www.dci-palestine.org/documents/israeli-soldiers-use-excessive-force-night-time-arrest-teen>

<sup>77</sup> <http://mondoweiss.net/2012/01/israels-al-jalame-prison-palestinian-children-are-locked-in-solitary-confinement-for-days-or-even-weeks>

<sup>78</sup> Ibid. ([http://www.dci-palestine.org/sites/default/files/report\\_0.pdf](http://www.dci-palestine.org/sites/default/files/report_0.pdf))

<sup>79</sup> <http://www.addameer.org/files/Reports/torture-eng.pdf>

<sup>80</sup> [http://english.pravda.ru/world/asia/19-08-2010/114659-israel\\_tortures\\_palestinians-0/](http://english.pravda.ru/world/asia/19-08-2010/114659-israel_tortures_palestinians-0/)

<sup>81</sup> <http://www.haaretz.com/opinion/1.645789>

<sup>82</sup> <http://www.btselem.org/topic/torture>

*few hours," they say. "Don't worry." Outside the house, the boy's hands are tied with plastic packaging bands and he is pushed into the police car.*

...

*30 days later, after being beaten with a chair, held in solitary confinement, taunted with a knife, forced to stay awake, and otherwise abused, the boy is released from prison. He now has trouble falling asleep at night, and when he does he often has nightmares, which feature his interrogators. And his punishment continues: He is under house arrest, indefinitely, and is not allowed to go to school. He is afraid that he will miss the end of his 9th grade year." -Report from the Huffington Post, May 30th 2012<sup>83</sup>.*



(Suhaib Alawar, 14, from Silwan after 30 days of abuse and solitary confinement: [theleftwall.com](http://theleftwall.com)<sup>84</sup>)

- In 2011, due to international pressure, G4S released a statement saying that they will not continue to provide services for Ofer prison, West Bank checkpoints, and West Bank police headquarters when the contracts terminate in 2015<sup>8586</sup>. However, there is no evidence that they have severed their contracts to date.
- So far there has been no stated commitment to ending their other contracts, including those with the Megiddo, Ketziot, Damon, and Rimonim (HaSharon Compound) prisons or the Al-Jalame (Kishon) and Moskobiyye (Russian Compound) Jerusalem detention facilities<sup>87</sup> that all hold Palestinian prisoners inside of Israel.

<sup>83</sup> [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/moriel-rothman/a-silwan-story-palestinian-child-arrested\\_b\\_1551856.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/moriel-rothman/a-silwan-story-palestinian-child-arrested_b_1551856.html)

<sup>84</sup> <http://theleftwall.com/2012/05/31/a-silwan-story-palestinian-child-arrested-abused-by-israeli-authorities-and-barred-from-finishing-9th-grade/>

<sup>85</sup> <http://portsmouthpsc.weebly.com/g4s.html>

<sup>86</sup> <http://mondoweiss.net/2013/04/pressure-security-checkpoints.html>

<sup>87</sup> <http://portsmouthpsc.weebly.com/1/category/Ofer%20prison/1.html>



- G4S Israel also provides security systems for the Abu Kabir (sometimes spelled Abu Kebir) detention center in Jaffa,<sup>88</sup> but the contract details are unclear.

*"UN Association sees it as a significant step forward that G4S withdraws from a number of contracts that include maintenance of security equipment at the wall, prisons and police stations West Bank. We are aware that there are both imprisoned children in these prisons and that there are political prisoners. Moreover, the wall in the West Bank, known illegal by the International Court in The Hague, and thus a problem for the peace process between Israelis and Palestinians. [The UN] therefore welcomes the concrete results and we will continue positive dialogue with G4S. We welcome further addition to G4S joining the Global Compact". -Lave K. Broch, President of the United Nations Association Peace and conflict resolution committee, 2012<sup>89</sup>*



(G4S CEO Ashley Almanza)

- G4S Israel is also the sole provider of electronic security systems to the Israeli police<sup>90</sup>. It provided equipment to the West Bank Israeli police headquarters located in the E-1 area next to settlement Ma'ale Adomim<sup>91</sup>.
  - The police quarters are called The Judea and Samaria Police headquarters - Machoz Shai
- The company offers its security services for businesses in illegal settlements, including security equipment and personnel to shops and supermarkets in the West bank settlements of Modi'in Illit, Ma'ale Adumim, Har Adar, the settlement neighborhoods of East Jerusalem, and the settlement of Kalia in the Jordan Valley.

<sup>88</sup><http://electronicintifada.net/blogs/adri-nieuwhof/security-firm-g4s-provides-services-israeli-prisons-police-and-army>

<sup>89</sup>[http://business-humanrights.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/company\\_responses/g4s-israel-apr-24-2012.pdf](http://business-humanrights.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/company_responses/g4s-israel-apr-24-2012.pdf)

<sup>90</sup> Ibid.

<sup>91</sup> Ibid.

- In addition, after G4S purchased Aminut Moked Artzi<sup>92</sup>, it took over its entire business operations.
  - This includes security services to businesses in the Barkan Industrial Zone built on Palestinian land in the West Bank.
- “G4S Israel also maintains cooperation with Ariel College<sup>93</sup> in the settlement of Ariel in the West Bank, including the company's participation in an open career day in the college.”<sup>94</sup>
  - In Ariel police station Palestinian children have been detained, beaten, and otherwise intimidated in order to force confessions<sup>95</sup>.

*“Ali was transferred to Ariel police station in the Israeli settlement of Ariel where he was interrogated without the presence of a lawyer or family member. The interrogator accused Ali of throwing stones and shouted at him. When Ali told the interrogator that he had been beaten and burned, the interrogator told him he could file a complaint at a later time. Ali was forced to sign a document that he discovered later was a confession to throwing stones.”<sup>96</sup> -Ali S. (14), resident of Azzun, Qalqilya*

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<sup>92</sup> one of the oldest private security companies in Israel, as mentioned previously in the report.

<sup>93</sup> <http://www.whoprofits.org/company/g4s-israel-hashmira>

<sup>94</sup> <http://whoprofits.org/sites/default/files/WhoProfits-PrivateSecurity-G4S.pdf>

<sup>95</sup> <http://www.dci-palestine.org/documents/dci-urges-israel-investigate-abuse-two-palestinian-boys>

<sup>96</sup> Ibid. (<http://www.dci-palestine.org/documents/case-summaries-2013>)



*The questions just kept coming at me from three corners of the room, and made me feel like my head was spinning. But the fourth man didn't say anything, his job was to hit me. If I didn't have time to look at the one who was asking a question, he hit me straight away with the piece of cable. It hurt like anything.*

*Afterwards they forced me to sign a paper saying that I hadn't been beaten during questioning. - Sawsan Abu Turki, aged 16, Interview from Save The Children, Sweden<sup>97</sup>*

### **Part III: Goals of G4S campaign:** No Child Behind Bars/Drop G4S

The campaign against child detention has called upon G4S to drop its contracts inside of Israel and the oPt.

G4S has announced its intentions to drop some of its contracts, but has failed to honor its promises in the past.

Therefore, we are launching a campaign to demand material results from G4S, with the following goals:

- To leverage G4S's omnipresence to mainstream the issue of child detention
- To promote municipal boycotts
  - We are calling on local groups to pressure their local governments to stop using G4S contracts
- To engage directly with G4S
  - We have seen already that the company is vulnerable to international pressure, thanks to examples, such as the Gates foundation divestment from G4S in 2014<sup>98</sup>. Although Gates did not say why the foundation divested from the company, it appears to have been a response to activist pressure<sup>99</sup> over its investment in the Israeli prison industry within Israel and the oPt.

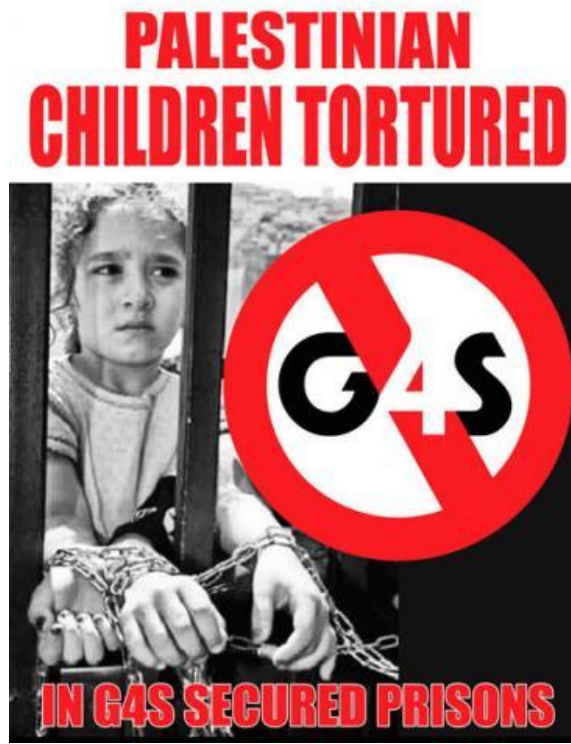


<sup>97</sup> Ibid.

<sup>98</sup> <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/supportservices/10884767/Bill-Gates-sells-entire-stake-in-G4S.html>

<sup>99</sup> <http://electronicintifada.net/blogs/michael-deas/bill-gates-foundation-sells-shares-israeli-prison-contractor-g4s>

- To brand G4S
  - We insist that G4S be identifiable in the US on all uniforms and equipment, etc. By making themselves easily identifiable, it will be easier to hold them accountable for their actions and their varying contracts.
  - We aim to educate US populations on the G4S' logo and uniforms so that they can be recognized across communities.
- To get students involved via campus divestment campaigns and education campaigns



*(Inminds 2014)*

The charge that Israel systematically abuses Palestinian children in military custody is not the claim of a small number of activists but the consensus of a broad range of human rights and monitoring groups. These organizations have been sounding the alarm over the abuse of child prisoners in Israeli military custody for a number of years, documenting the arrests, detentions, interrogations, solitary confinement and torture of Palestinian children and the effects that these have on the children and their families.

To underscore this consensus and provide sources for further research, we are listing many of these reports below. It should be noted that some of these are assessments of the Israeli response to earlier reports, which demonstrates that the abuses are continuing at an alarming level.

\*Please note that this is not a cohesive list but rather an overview and, thus, some reports may be missing from the list below.

- List of reports on child detention:
  - Military Court Watch, Children in Israeli Military Detention, Progress Report, April 2015
    - <http://www.militarycourtwatch.org/files/server/PROGRESS%20REPORT%20-%20APRIL%202015.pdf>
  - UNICEF Bulletin No. 2, February 2015
    - [http://www.unicef.org/oPt/Children\\_in\\_Israeli\\_Military\\_Detention\\_-\\_Observations\\_and\\_Recommendations\\_-\\_Bulletin\\_No.\\_2\\_-\\_February\\_2015.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/oPt/Children_in_Israeli_Military_Detention_-_Observations_and_Recommendations_-_Bulletin_No._2_-_February_2015.pdf)
  - “From Abduction to Prison: Israeli Cruelty to Palestinian Children,” Euro-Mid Observer for Human Rights, July 2014
    - <http://euomid.org/en/article/528/Report:-Israeli-Cruelty-to-Palestinian-Children--From-Abduction-to-Prison#sthash.sMTluBtT.dpbs>
  - Defence for Children International report on solitary confinement, May 2014
    - [http://www.dci-palestine.org/sites/default/files/report\\_doc\\_solitary\\_confinement\\_report\\_2013\\_final\\_29apr2014.pdf](http://www.dci-palestine.org/sites/default/files/report_doc_solitary_confinement_report_2013_final_29apr2014.pdf)
  - Public Committee Against Torture in Israel: Childhood is a right, December 31, 2013
    - <http://www.stoptorture.org.il/en/node/1951?search=childhood+is+a+right&x=-1069&y=-16>
  - B’Tselem, “Torture and abuse under interrogation: Abuse and torture in interrogations of dozens of Palestinian minors in the Israel Police Etzion Facility,” August 22, 2013
    - [http://www.btselem.org/torture/201308\\_etzion](http://www.btselem.org/torture/201308_etzion)
  - United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, June 14 2013
    - [see section E, see section on “torture and other cruel or degrading treatment or punishment” where it says Israel has been repeatedly warned]
    - <http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/462F6CD01D9E31E485257B90004850D33ba34634f885257b260051c8ff?OpenDocument>
  - UNICEF, “Children in Israeli Military Detention,” March 2013.
    - <http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAI.NSF/3822b5e39951876a85256b6e0058a478/1ee6b43ba34634f885257b260051c8ff?OpenDocument>
  - Breaking the Silence: “Children and Youth —Soldiers’ Testimonies 2005-2011”, August 2012
    - [http://www.breakingthesilence.org.il/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Children\\_and\\_Youth\\_Soldiers\\_Testimonies\\_2005\\_2011\\_Eng.pdf](http://www.breakingthesilence.org.il/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Children_and_Youth_Soldiers_Testimonies_2005_2011_Eng.pdf)
  - “Children in Military Custody,” written by a panel of distinguished British jurists, funded by the British Foreign Office, June 2012

- <http://www.chicagofaithcoalition.org/pdfDocuments/no-way-to-treat-a-child/Children-in-Military-Custody-Full-Report.pdf>
- Save the Children Sweden, “The Impact of Child Detention: Occupied Palestinian Territory”, January 2012
  - <http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/sites/default/files/documents/5720.pdf>
- Addameer, “Torture of Palestinian Political Prisoners in Israeli Prisons”, October 2003
  - <http://www.addameer.org/files/Reports/torture-eng.pdf>
- Save the Children Sweden, “One Day in Prison Feels Like A Year, Palestinian children tell their own stories,” September 2003
  - <http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/sites/default/files/documents/2443.pdf>
- To join groups already working on G4S campaigns:
  - Palestine Solidarity Campaign (main office is in Central London)
    - [info@palestinecampaign.org](mailto:info@palestinecampaign.org)
    - 020 7700 6192
  - Addameer Prison Support and Human Right Association
    - [info@addameer.ps](mailto:info@addameer.ps)
  - Stop G4S (UK)
    - <http://stopg4s.net/contact>
      - Check out a timeline of actions around G4S in the UK and BDS progress in Europe<sup>100</sup>
  - Defence for Children International- Palestine
    - <http://www.dci-palestine.org/>
  - War on Want
    - <http://waronwant.org/campaigns/justice-for-palestine/end-g4s-complicity-in-israels-prisons>
  - Durham Jewish Voice for Peace chapter
    - <https://jewishvoiceforpeace.org/blog/bds-victory-durham-drops-1-million-contract-with-israeli-occupation-pr>
  - Columbia University Prison Divestment Campaign
    - <https://www.facebook.com/columbiaprisondivest>
  - US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation
    - <http://www.endtheoccupation.org/g4s>
  - Church divestment in the US
    - United Methodists (divested from G4S in June 2014)
    - Mennonite Central Committee (pending confirmation)
    - American Friends Service Committee (Quakers)
    - United Church of Christ (voting on divestment from G4S in June 2015)
      - <http://www.uccpin.org/#!/resolution/c10d6>

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<sup>100</sup> <http://www.bdsmovement.net/g4s-timeline>

*“The idea to not do business with companies which are complicit in violations of international law is gaining ground. ‘You can simply say: we don’t want to be part of this. This way, you can actually make an impact,’ according to Zegveld. ‘If citizens no longer accept that Israel violates human rights and international law and foreign companies will withdraw from Israel, the country has to change.’ That is why the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement needs to keep campaigning against G4S as long as it remains involved in securing prisons in Israel and the West Bank, in securing a police station in the West Bank and checkpoints in the wall, and in protecting businesses in settlements.” -Electronic Intifada 2013<sup>101</sup>*



(Location of Israeli Prisons: Who Profits)

<sup>101</sup> <http://electronicintifada.net/blogs/adri-nieuwhof/g4s-feels-heat-international-boycott-campaign>

**Question:-** “In the court, do you try to get the child released on bail?”

**Iyad:-** “Yes, the first thing I do is ask the judge to release the child. In some cases I suggest various alternatives to detention, such as bail, a third party guarantee, or even house arrest until the end of the legal proceedings.”

**Question:-** “What usually happens, does the judge release the child?”

**Iyad:-** “In most cases the request is denied. The judge claims that there is no appropriate alternative to detention and that the release of these children endangers the community. They see the child as guilty until proven innocent, not vice versa.”

**Question:-** “How common is it for children to be found innocent?” 42| Bound, Blindfolded and Convicted |43

**Iyad:-** “Not common. In most cases children are either found guilty, or plead guilty.” **Question:-** “So, what happens if the child pleads innocent?”

**Iyad:-** “If the child decides to plead innocent, this will prolong the proceedings and he will spend a much longer time in detention. It could be twice as long as it would have been if the case ended in a plea bargain. Our experience in the courts shows that in the end, he will almost certainly receive a guilty verdict, with a stiffer sentence than if he had pleaded guilty to begin with. I explain this to the child and the family, and in most cases the child chooses not to plead innocent and concludes a deal with the prosecutor to end the case and reach a verdict.”

-Interview with a DCI-Palestine Lawyer, 2012<sup>102</sup>

## Part IV: Details of Israel’s child detention process

“In 21.4 percent of cases recorded by DCI-Palestine in 2013<sup>103</sup>, children detained in the Israeli military detention system reported undergoing solitary confinement as part of the interrogation process.” - DCI Press Release<sup>104105</sup>

The 2010 statement issued by the Gaza Center for Prisoners’ Studies states that the occupying power, Israel, “represented by the State Prison Service, violates all conventions and international charters that are supposed to protect minors in custody” -Gaza Center for Prisoners’ Studies<sup>106</sup>.

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<sup>102</sup> [http://www.dci-palestine.org/sites/default/files/report\\_0.pdf](http://www.dci-palestine.org/sites/default/files/report_0.pdf)

<sup>103</sup> [http://www.dci-palestine.org/sites/default/files/report\\_doc\\_solitary\\_confinement\\_report\\_2013\\_final\\_29apr2014.pdf](http://www.dci-palestine.org/sites/default/files/report_doc_solitary_confinement_report_2013_final_29apr2014.pdf)

<sup>104</sup> <http://www.dci-palestine.org/documents/rising-numbers-palestinian-children-subjected-solitary-confinement>

<sup>105</sup> <http://electronicintifada.net/blogs/ali-abunimah/children-describe-torture-israeli-solitary-confinement>

<sup>106</sup> <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/news/middle-east/1135-nearly-four-hundred-palestinian-children-subject-to-serious-abuse-in-israeli-prisons>



**Until 2011, the Israeli military courts “considered Palestinian children to be minors only up to 15 years old.”<sup>107</sup>**

- A military order in September of that year raised the age when Palestinians are tried as adults from 16 to 18. Despite being tried as juveniles, however, Palestinians aged 16 and 17 remain subject to adult sentencing provisions. Penalties for minors found guilty are dependent on their age.

*Example: Most children are arrested on the allegation of stone throwing, which if the stone is thrown at a person or property with an “intent to harm” carries a ten year maximum sentence and if thrown at a moving vehicle, carries a 20 year maximum sentence. As such, “applying the limitation on sentences that can be imposed, a child aged between 12 and 13 years can receive a maximum sentence of six months, but a child aged between 14 and 15 years could in theory receive the maximum penalty of 10 years, as the maximum penalty for the offence exceeds five years”<sup>108</sup>. The same goes for the 14- or 15-year-old child accused of throwing a stone at a moving vehicle, who could in theory face up to 20 years in prison. Children aged 16 and 17 are sentenced as adults and do not have even this semblance of protection.*

**Palestinian children detained by Israeli soldiers are questioned by men dressed in civilian clothes or military uniforms, or sometimes in Israeli police uniforms<sup>109</sup>.**

- No child has been accompanied by a lawyer or family member during the interrogation, despite article 37(d) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>110</sup>, which requires that: “Every child deprived of his or her liberty shall have the right to prompt access to legal and other appropriate assistance.”

**The children are rarely informed of their rights<sup>111</sup>**

- Particularly the right against self-incrimination.<sup>112</sup> The interrogation mixes intimidation, threats and physical violence, with the clear purpose of forcing the child to confess. Children are restrained during the interrogation, in some cases to the chair they are sitting on<sup>113</sup>. This can continue for extended periods of time, resulting in pain to their hands, back and legs. Children have been threatened with death, physical violence, rape and solitary confinement, against themselves or a family member.<sup>114</sup>

<sup>107</sup> <http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/1EE6B43BA34634F885257B260051C8FF>

<sup>108</sup> Ibid.

<sup>109</sup> <http://www.adalah.org/en/content/view/8344>

<sup>110</sup> <http://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>

<sup>111</sup> <http://lphr.org.uk/index.php/lphrs-know-your-rights-campaign-for-children-in-military-custody-and-the-unicef-update/>

<sup>112</sup> <http://www.dci-palestine.org/documents/palestinian-children-victims-israeli-abuse-designed-coerce-confessions>

<sup>113</sup> Stolen Youth: The Politics of Israel's Detention of Palestinian Children <http://www.dci-pal.org/english/publ/display.cfm?DocId=190&CategoryId=8>

<sup>114</sup> <http://www.adalah.org/en/content/view/8285>

*“Approximately 700 Palestinian children under the age of 18 from the occupied West Bank are prosecuted every year through Israeli military courts after being arrested, interrogated and detained by the Israeli army. The most common charge levied against children is throwing stones, a crime that is punishable under military law by up to 20 years in prison. Since 2000, more than 8,000 Palestinian children have been detained.”<sup>115</sup> –Addameer*

*“I was surprised by how I was arrested and by the two-hour-long interrogation, during which I was terrified and panic overtook me. ‘Confess!’ the Israeli officer screamed. I cried, and all I could say was ‘I did not do anything.’” – Malak Al-Khatib (14), resident of Bitayn<sup>116</sup>*

### **Most children confess at the end of the interrogation.**

- The interrogator prints out some forms and orders the child to sign them, though the child often lacks a proper understanding of their contents<sup>117</sup>. In most cases the forms are in Hebrew, which the overwhelming majority of Palestinian children do not understand.
- By the end of the interrogation period, some children have been kept in solitary confinement two days to a full month, a practice strictly prohibited by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child<sup>118</sup>.
- The child is then brought to a trial before a military court. The children “enter the courtroom in leg chains and shackles, wearing prison uniforms.”
- This is in contravention of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners<sup>119</sup>, which stipulate that “chains and irons shall never be used, and other forms of restraint should only be used in certain limited circumstances.” It is in the courtroom that most children see their lawyers for the first time. The lawyers often are unable to access all of the relevant military orders or all Israeli criminal legislation because they have not all been translated into Arabic, in contravention to international law<sup>120</sup>.

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<sup>115</sup> <http://www.addameer.org/etemplate.php?id=296>

<sup>116</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Rjz-aPckRg>

<sup>117</sup> Ibid.

<sup>118</sup> <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx>

<sup>119</sup> [http://www.unodc.org/pdf/criminal\\_justice/UN\\_Standard\\_Minimum\\_Rules\\_for\\_the\\_Treatment\\_of\\_Prisoners.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/criminal_justice/UN_Standard_Minimum_Rules_for_the_Treatment_of_Prisoners.pdf)

<sup>120</sup> International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Also in the EHRC.

### **Ill-treatment of Palestinian children<sup>121</sup> in the Israeli military detention system appears to be widespread, systematic and institutionalized<sup>122</sup> (UNICEF 2013)**

- UNICEF's conclusion is based on the repeated allegations about such treatment over the past 10 years and the volume, consistency and persistence of these allegations.
- The review of cases documented through the monitoring and reporting mechanism on grave child rights violations, as well as interviews conducted by UNICEF with Israeli and Palestinian lawyers and Palestinian children, also supports this conclusion<sup>123</sup>.
- The pattern of ill-treatment includes the arrests of children at their homes between midnight and 5:00 am by heavily armed soldiers<sup>124</sup>; the practice of blindfolding children and tying their hands with plastic ties; physical and verbal abuse during transfer to an interrogation site, including the use of painful restraints; lack of access to water, food, toilet facilities and medical care<sup>125</sup>; interrogation using physical violence and threats; coerced confessions; and lack of access to lawyers or family members during interrogation<sup>126</sup>.
- According to the PLO's Prisoners and Detainees Affairs Commission approximately 10,000 Palestinian minors had been detained in Israeli prisons from 2000 to the end of 2014<sup>127</sup>.
- The Global Movement for Children (GMC)<sup>128</sup> in the Palestinian territories said in a statement on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 that "the Palestinian children who were detained by the Israeli occupation forces in the occupied West Bank in 2014 were victims of systematic violations aimed at extracting confessions from them."
- The GMC indicated that it collected 107 sworn testimonies last year from Palestinian children in the West Bank between the ages of 12 and 17 and that these children stated that they had been subjected to various forms of ill treatment during their detention or interrogation.<sup>129</sup>

### **The number of Palestinian children detained has been fluctuating at around 200 per month over the past two and a half years.**

- According to Palestinian Prisoners Society (PPS), about 270 minors are currently held in Israeli prisons (as of Feb. 2015) "and are serving various sentences in poor conditions quite similar to those experienced by adult prisoners, such as solitary confinement

<sup>121</sup> <http://972mag.com/palestinian-kids-detail-abusive-interrogations-arrests/91851/>

<sup>122</sup> [http://www.unicef.org/media/media\\_68093.html](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_68093.html)

<sup>123</sup> [http://www.unicef.org/oPt/UNICEF\\_oPt\\_Children\\_in\\_Israeli\\_Military\\_Detention\\_Observations\\_and\\_Recommendations\\_-\\_6\\_March\\_2013.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/oPt/UNICEF_oPt_Children_in_Israeli_Military_Detention_Observations_and_Recommendations_-_6_March_2013.pdf)

<sup>124</sup> <http://www.dci-palestine.org/documents/palestinian-children-israeli-military-custody-face-physical-violence>

<sup>125</sup> [http://www.dci-palestine.org/sites/default/files/un\\_sp\\_doc\\_opt\\_detention\\_2012\\_final\\_25jun2013.pdf](http://www.dci-palestine.org/sites/default/files/un_sp_doc_opt_detention_2012_final_25jun2013.pdf)

<sup>126</sup> Ibid.

<sup>127</sup> <http://www.maannews.net/Content.aspx?id=741048>

<sup>128</sup> <http://www.unicef.org/gmfc/what.htm>

<sup>129</sup> <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2015/02/israel-palestinian-prisoners-children-human-rights-violation.html#ixzz3ZBCIDWw4>

and physical abuse. Prisoners are blindfolded and strip searched while their hands and feet are tied — and family visits are banned.”<sup>130</sup>

- The monthly average for 2013 shows that 219 children per month were in Israeli military custody, compared to 196 per month in 2012, marking a 12 per cent increase.
- On 30 August 2013, 180 boys aged 12 to 17 years (31 between the ages of 12 and 15) were in Israeli detention for alleged security violations. Out of the 180 boys, 115 boys were in pretrial detention and 65 were serving a sentence<sup>131</sup>.

**During the second quarter of 2013, a sample comprised of 19 cases of alleged ill treatment by the Israeli army and police were documented through affidavits<sup>132</sup>.**

- 12 affidavits were from boys above the age of 16, seven were from boys below the age of 16, including two aged 13, three aged 14, and three aged 15.
- In all of the 19 cases documented, parents were not allowed to accompany their children and none of the children were informed of their right to legal counsel.
- 19 boys detained reported being painfully hand tied and 16 boys blindfolded. 19 boys reported suffering physical violence (beating, slapping, kicking, being hit with sticks, on various parts of the body including the head and the face). 17 boys reported suffering verbal abuse during the journey to the interrogation center. 18 boys reported suffering from painful restraints or from being forced to lie on the floor of the vehicle.
- 13 boys reported being strip searched at least once while in custody. Nine children were strip searched upon arrival at interrogation centers such as Al-Jalame, and Huwwara. One child reported being strip searched at a military camp and one child said he was strip searched upon arrival at the Megiddo IPS detention center.

**Additionally, children report been targeted for arrest either at school or en route.<sup>133</sup>**

- 48 percent of children detained are required to serve house arrest<sup>134</sup> after being released from prison.<sup>135</sup> A high percentage of these are prevented from going to school during their house arrest, leading to 40 percent of them doing poorly<sup>136</sup> once they do return.<sup>137</sup>

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<sup>130</sup> <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2015/02/israel-palestinian-prisoners-children-human-rights-violation.html#ixzz3ZBAquYaG>

<sup>131</sup> <http://www.dci-palestine.org/content/child-detainees>

<sup>132</sup> [http://www.unicef.org/oPt/UNICEF\\_oPt\\_Children\\_in\\_Military\\_Detention\\_Bulletin\\_No\\_1\\_October\\_2013.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/oPt/UNICEF_oPt_Children_in_Military_Detention_Bulletin_No_1_October_2013.pdf)

<sup>133</sup> <http://www.dci-palestine.org/documents/child-house-arrests-rise-jerusalem-clampdown>

<sup>134</sup> <http://www.roomno4.org/en/gallery/house-arrest/>

<sup>135</sup> <http://www.scribd.com/doc/122619827/THE-IMPACT-OF-CHILD-ARREST-AND-DETENTION#scribd>

<sup>136</sup> <http://mondoweiss.net/2015/02/palestinian-psychological-educational>

<sup>137</sup> Ibid.

*Khatib (14) was arrested in front of the gate to her school in Bitayn on Dec. 31, 2014 and accused of three offenses: throwing stones, possessing a knife and blocking a public road...*

*"As I returned home from school, I was surprised by four Israeli soldiers who were armed to the teeth. They attacked me and dragged me to the ground as they handcuffed me and threw me inside a military vehicle,"...Khatib explained her horror during the detention periods. She kept asking the soldiers if she could see her mother so she could hug her. However, Khatib said that the Israeli authorities categorically refused to let her see her parents throughout the duration of her imprisonment." –Article from Al-Monitor, Feb. 2015<sup>138</sup>*



*(Arrest of Palestinian boy in West Bank village of al-Maasara: Photo by Oren Zin/ActiveStills)*

### **Child detention in prisons inside Israel and the West Bank with G4S contracts:**

#### **Child detainment in the Megiddo Prison:**

- If a boy from the West Bank or Gaza Strip is 16 at the time of arrest, he is transferred to the Megiddo military prison. Despite the fact that anyone under the age of 18 is considered a child by international law and Israeli domestic law, the Israeli military defines 16-year-old Palestinians as adults<sup>139</sup>.

<sup>138</sup> Ibid.

<sup>139</sup> <http://electronicintifada.net/content/israelis-torturing-palestinian-children/6853>

- Palestinian children 16 and over are detained as adults in Megiddo.
- Megiddo prisoners are not held in regular prison cells. They are held in tents<sup>140</sup> that are open to the elements. There are five sections in Megiddo Prison, with each section containing around eight tents. The tents fill with water during the winter and are extremely hot in summer. The ground is paved with asphalt<sup>141</sup>.
- As children in Megiddo are detained as adults, they have a limited right to continue their education:

*“The Israeli Prison Service provides education only in Megiddo and Rimonim prisons but imposes restrictions on what subjects can be taught, allowing children to study only mathematics and humanities and banning other subjects for “security reasons”. Girls under the age of 18 are usually detained with adult female prisoners and receive no formal education. While Israeli boys who are detained in Rimonim receive approximately 20 hours of taught classes per week and study in a special classroom, Palestinian boys detained in Megiddo prison are forced to study in the prison’s courtyard without any protection from weather conditions. Importantly, the Israeli Prison Service refuses to establish any coordination mechanism with the Palestinian Authority and as a consequence, Palestinian child detainees are taught according to the Israeli-Arab curriculum, instead of the official curriculum adopted by the Palestinian Ministry of Education. This has obvious negative consequences on a child detainee’s performance in school after he or she is released from prison.”<sup>142</sup> -Addameer*

- Medical services are extremely poor with prisoners reporting that they are given basic acetaminophen for most ailments and only taken to the clinic in serious cases<sup>143</sup>.
- No family visits to Megiddo have been permitted since the beginning of the Intifada in September 2000<sup>144</sup>.

Defence for Children International has documented the case of Sameh (16) who was imprisoned for six hours, bound and lying on the floor in Ariel settlement police station. He was then transferred to Megiddo prison, inside Israel, in violation of Article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits such transfers. He was strip searched on arrival and forced to sign a 'confession' that he was not allowed to read<sup>145</sup>.

Sameh – Arrested: 19/11/12

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<sup>140</sup><https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/news/middle-east/3869-israel-using-tents-to-accommodate-palestinian-prisoners>

<sup>141</sup><http://www.dci-pal.org/english/camp/freedom/pdf/prison.pdf>

<sup>142</sup> Ibid.

<sup>143</sup> Ibid.

<sup>144</sup> Ibid.

<sup>145</sup> [http://stopg4s.net/sites/default/files/G4S\\_child\\_detention.pdf](http://stopg4s.net/sites/default/files/G4S_child_detention.pdf)

### Child detention at Ketziot

- In Ketziot, like in Megiddo, 16-year-old children are considered to be adults. They are held in tents, caravans or cement huts<sup>146</sup>, which offer little protection against freezing winters and scorching summers. Bedding consists of wooden pallets covered by thin mattresses and there are four toilets and two showers for every section in which some 120 detainees are held<sup>147</sup>.

*“I can’t give you information about your health, it’s a security matter” - article by Tom Anderson and Therezia Cooper on Palestinian prisoner in Ketziot March 6th 2014*

### Child detention at Damon

A 2010 statement, issued by the director of the Centre for Prisoners Studies, identified Damon Prison<sup>148</sup> as one of the detention centers where children are abused.



*(Article on Al-Jalame detention Center by The Guardian<sup>149</sup>: Photo by Abed Al Hashlamoun/EPA, Hebron)*

<sup>146</sup> <http://www.corporatewatch.org/news/2014/mar/06/life-sick-palestinian-prisoner-israeli-prison-complex>

<sup>147</sup> <http://electronicintifada.net/content/child-rights-group-israel-should-respect-rights-child-detainees/1811>

<sup>148</sup> <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/news/middle-east/1135-nearly-four-hundred-palestinian-children-subject-to-serious-abuse-in-israeli-prisons>

<sup>149</sup> <http://readingpsc.org.uk/2012/01/cell-36-the-palestinian-children-alone-and-bewildered-in-israels-al-jalame-jail/>

*“Cell 36, deep within Al-Jalame prison in northern Israel...is one of a handful of cells where Palestinian children are locked in solitary confinement for days or even weeks. One 16-year-old claimed that he had been kept in Cell 36 for 65 days.*

*The only escape is to the interrogation room where children are shackled, by hands and feet, to a chair while being questioned, sometimes for hours.”<sup>150</sup>*

### **Child detainment in the Al-Jalame detention center**

*“I was strip searched and given a prison uniform. Then they took me to an interrogation room with a low metal chair tied to the floor in the middle of the room [...] he tied my hands to it. After that an interrogator came into the room and introduced himself as ‘Assaf’. He said he would interrogate me and hoped I would cooperate [...]. About an hour later I was detained in Cell No. 36. It is a very small cell, which had a mattress on the floor and a toilet with a horrible smell, as well as two concrete chairs. The lights in the ceiling were dim yellow and on 24 hours, and they hurt my eyes. The walls were grey and had a rough surface. The cell had no windows, just two gaps for letting air in and out. The food was served through a flap in the door [...]. Assaf and Amos interrogated me for several days and I eventually decided to confess because of the pressure they put on me. I was in a bad psychological state because they kept my hands tied for several hours during interrogation and detained me in a small cell.” Rami J. (17)<sup>151</sup> – Arrested: 24 October 2011 (Held in solitary confinement for 24 days)*

*\*After approximately one month in Al-Jalame, Rami was transferred to Megiddo, another prison also situated inside Israel.*

According to Defence for Children International-Palestine, children are held in solitary confinement in the Al-Jalame interrogation center<sup>152</sup> for up to 65 days<sup>153</sup>, with their only reprieve being the interrogation room, where they are shackled by their hands and feet to a chair and often abused for hours<sup>154</sup>.

On 12 January 2013, DCI submitted five complaints to the Israeli authorities on behalf of five children<sup>155</sup> who were ill treated and tortured<sup>156</sup> when they were held in Al-Jalame interrogation center. The complaints request that an investigation be opened into allegations that the children were mistreated by the Israeli Prison Service and the Israeli Security Agency whilst being detained in the Al-Jalame interrogation center.

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<sup>150</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2012/jan/22/palestinian-children-detained-jail-israel>

<sup>151</sup> [http://www.dci-palestine.org/sites/default/files/report\\_0.pdf](http://www.dci-palestine.org/sites/default/files/report_0.pdf)

<sup>152</sup> <http://electronicintifada.net/tags/al-jalame-interrogation-center>

<sup>153</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2012/jan/22/palestinian-children-detained-jail-israel>

<sup>154</sup> <http://portsmouthpsc.weebly.com/g4s.ht>

<sup>155</sup> <http://www.dci-palestine.org/documents/dci-submits-complaint-behalf-five-child-detainees>

<sup>156</sup> [http://www.dci-palestine.org/sites/default/files/report\\_doc\\_solitary\\_confinement\\_report\\_2013\\_final\\_29apr2014.pdf](http://www.dci-palestine.org/sites/default/files/report_doc_solitary_confinement_report_2013_final_29apr2014.pdf)



- **Illegal Transfer**<sup>157</sup>: The five children were arrested by Israeli soldiers in September and October 2012 and were transferred shortly thereafter to the Al-Jalame facility, inside Israel. The transfer of the children out of the West Bank was in violation of Article 49 and 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention<sup>158</sup>, which expressly prohibits such transfers.
- **The five children**, Suleiman K. (17)<sup>159</sup>, Jamal S. (16)<sup>160</sup>, Adham D. (16)<sup>161</sup>, Abdullah S. (16)<sup>162</sup>, and Mujahed S. (17)<sup>163</sup> were held in solitary confinement for periods ranging from four to 29 days in small cells measuring approximately 2 by 3 meters. During their solitary confinement, the children were deprived of human contact.
- Moreover, the five children reported being interrogated for lengthy periods whilst tied to a small chair.

**Since 2008, DCI-Palestine has documented 59 cases**<sup>164</sup> in which children reported being held in solitary confinement at the Al-Jalame, Petah Tikva interrogation centers<sup>165</sup>, and HaSharon prison.

**The UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Mr. Juan Méndez, called for a complete ban on the use of solitary confinement for children** in a report submitted to the UN General Assembly, in October 2011<sup>166</sup>.

- The former UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt), Professor Richard Falk, released a statement condemning Israel's use of solitary confinement against Palestinian children.
- According to professor Falk, "this pattern of abuse by Israel is grave...it is inhumane, cruel, degrading, and unlawful, and, most worryingly, it is likely to adversely affect the mental and physical health of underage detainees."<sup>167</sup>

**Cell 36:** Al-Jalame has come to be known as "Israel's children's dungeon" with its infamous cell 36 about which so many children have testified.

<sup>157</sup> <http://electronicintifada.net/blogs/adri-nieuwhof/half-israels-palestinian-child-prisoners-are-held-illegally-outside-west-bank>

<sup>158</sup> <https://www.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/INTRO/380>

<sup>159</sup> <http://www.dci-palestine.org/documents/voices-occupation-suleiman-k-solitary-confinement>

<sup>160</sup> <http://www.dci-palestine.org/documents/voices-occupation-jamal-s-solitary-confinement>

<sup>161</sup> <http://www.dci-palestine.org/documents/voices-occupation-adham-d-solitary-confinement>

<sup>162</sup> <http://www.dci-palestine.org/documents/voices-occupation-abdullah-s-solitary-confinement>

<sup>163</sup> <http://www.dci-palestine.org/documents/voices-occupation-mujahed-s-solitary-confinement>

<sup>164</sup> <http://www.dci-palestine.org/documents/dci-submits-complaint-behalf-five-child-detainees>

<sup>165</sup> <http://electronicintifada.net/blogs/ali-abunimah/children-describe-torture-israeli-solitary-confinement>

<sup>166</sup> <http://www.un.org/press/en/2011/gashc4014.doc.htm>

<sup>167</sup> <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=12377&LangID=E>

- Deep inside Al-Jalame prison, three floors below the surface, are located tiny children's cells, black holes, where Palestinian children as young as 12 years old are caged in solitary confinement, some up to 65 days.
- In a *Guardian* interview<sup>168</sup>, two children described cell 36:

*"The cell is 2 m long by 1m wide, it's as big as a mattress, without the toilet. You put down the mattress and in front is the toilet... There is no window...the air chokes you."*



*(The two boys speak with The Guardian on their experiences in Cell 36: The Guardian 2012)*

*"The room is barely wider than the thin dirty mattress which covers the floor. It's a very thin mattress, only 5 cm thick. The yellow light is kept on 24 hours a day to inhibit sleeping whilst the walls have sharp protrusions preventing the child from leaning against them for support. The delivery of food through a locked flap in the door is the only way of marking time, dividing day from night. The breakfast tray is dropped through the flap in the door 30 cm from the floor at 4 am. If the tray isn't caught in time the food will spill on the floor and the child will be punished if he doesn't finish the food. Where the mattress finishes is a low concrete wall behind which is a hole in the ground toilet. The stench from the toilet has no escape in the windowless room."*

<sup>168</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R7U2nuyTjao>

- The only escape the children have from this cage is the interrogation room, where they are shackled by hands and feet, abused by Israeli secret police for up to six hours at a time or until they confess.
- The most common confession is to throwing stones<sup>169</sup>, which carries a penalty of up to 20 years<sup>170</sup>.
- The children described the grueling six hour interrogation sessions:

*"On the ground is an iron ring, he puts the cuffs through it with your hands locked on either side. He cuffs your ankles to the chair legs... You cannot move... like a statue. They said they would arrest my father and mother and bring them here if I didn't confess. They said, "You are forcing us to bring them here, understand that I have the state of Israel behind me, behind you is nothing."*

**At Ofer prison, which is still secured by G4S<sup>171</sup>, children have testified to being sexually assaulted<sup>172</sup> by the interrogators<sup>173</sup><sup>174</sup> and threatened with sodomy with an object in order to coerce a confession<sup>175</sup>.**

- Children have testified to Israeli soldiers using attack dogs during interrogation at time of arrest, before entering the facility
- One boy, Ahmad F. (15), described how, after being shackled so he couldn't move, dog food was placed on his head and the attack dog unleashed to eat off his head. He described his fear as the dog's saliva dripped down his face. They then placed dog food near the boy's genitals<sup>176</sup>.

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<sup>169</sup><http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/how-israel-takes-its-revenge-on-boys-who-throw-stones-2344037.html>

<sup>170</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/nov/04/israel-palestinian-stone-throwers-jail>

<sup>171</sup> <http://www.corporatewatch.org/company-profiles/g4s-palestine>

<sup>172</sup><http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/israel/10261904/Israeli-police-under-investigation-for-abusing-Palestinian-children.html>

<sup>173</sup> <http://www.imemc.org/article/69791>

<sup>174</sup><http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/israel-240-palestinian-children-sexually-abused-jerusalem-detention-centres-group-claims-1476061>

<sup>175</sup> <http://mondoweiss.net/2014/06/testimonies-palestinian-authorities>

<sup>176</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2012/08/20128910267627456.html> and <http://www.inminds.com/article.php?id=10601>

# G4S SECURED CHILDRENS DUNGEON

## ISRAEL'S AL JALAME PRISON - CELL 36

Deep inside Israel's G4S secured Al Jalame prison, three floors below the surface, are located tiny childrens cells where Palestinian children as young as 12 years old are caged in solitary confinement, some for 65 days! Their only escape is the interrogation room where the children, shackled by hands and feet, are abused by Israeli secret police for over 6 hours at a time, until they confess usually to throwing a stone which carries a penalty of up to 20 years.

### 65 Days of Solitary Confinement

"The cell is 2m long by 1m wide, its as big as a mattress without the toilet - you put down the mattress and in front is the toilet. There is no window, the air chokes you"

The delivery of food through a locked flap in the door is the only way of marking time, dividing day from night.



Breakfast tray is dropped through a flap in the door 30cm from the floor at 4am, if the tray isn't caught the food will spill on the floor and the child will be punished if he doesn't eat it.

The room is barely wider than the thin (5cm thick), dirty mattress that covers the floor.

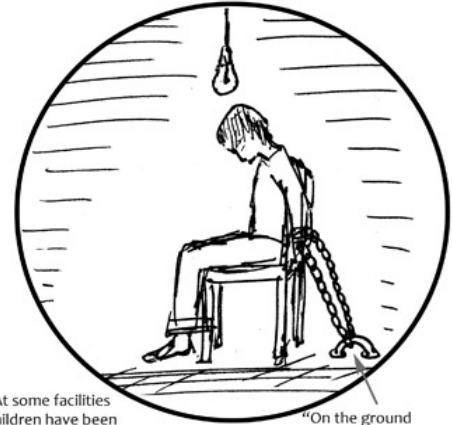
Behind a low concrete wall is a hole in the ground toilet, the stench from which has no escape in the windowless room.

The light is kept on 24 hours a day, inhibiting sleep.

The walls have sharp protrusions preventing the child from leaning against them for support.

### 6 Hour Interrogation Sessions

They said they would arrest my father and mother and bring them here if i didn't confess - "You are forcing us to bring them here, understand that I have the state of Israel behind me, behind you is nothing"



At some facilities children have been sexually assaulted by interrogators and threatened with sodomy with an object.

"On the ground is an iron ring, he puts the cuffs through it with your hands locked on either side. He cuffs your ankles to the chair legs.. You cannot move.. like a statue"

[www.inminds.com/caged](http://www.inminds.com/caged)

\* Details of Al Jalame prison from testimonies of the children as reported by the Guardian newspaper and Defence for Children International

*"Whilst settler children are processed through Israel's juvenile justice system and generally released on bail, Palestinian children accused of similar offences are prosecuted in military courts, which deny children bail in at least 87 percent of cases<sup>177</sup> and have a conviction rate of 99.74<sup>178</sup> percent." -DCI-Palestine 2012*

<sup>177</sup> [http://www.dci-palestine.org/sites/default/files/report\\_0.pdf](http://www.dci-palestine.org/sites/default/files/report_0.pdf)

<sup>178</sup> <http://www.haaretz.com/print-edition/news/nearly-100-of-all-military-court-cases-in-west-bank-end-in-conviction-haaretz-learns-1.398369>

*The table below highlights some of the ways in which the two Israeli legal systems applied in the West Bank discriminate between children based on race or nationality.*

#	Event	Israeli settler children	Palestinian children
1	Minimum age of criminal responsibility.	12	12
2	Minimum age for a custodial sentence.	14	12
3	Age of majority.	18	16-18
4	Legal right to have a parent present during interrogation.	Generally yes	No
5	Legal right to have a lawyer present during interrogation.	No	No
6	Legal right to have interrogation audio-visually recorded.	Partial	No
7	Maximum period of detention before being brought before judge.	12-24 hours	4 days
8	Maximum period of detention without access to a lawyer.	48 hours	90 days
9	Maximum period of detention without charge.	40 days	188 days
10	Maximum period of time between charge and trial.	6 months	2 years
11	Percentage of cases in which bail is denied.	20%	87%
12	Percentage of cases in which a custodial sentence is imposed.	6.5%	90%

179

<sup>179</sup> <http://www.dci-palestine.org/documents/children-prosecuted-israeli-military-courts-%E2%80%93-update>



(Israeli Police Detain A Palestinian Child in Jerusalem: Reuters October 2014)

### Child detainment in Moskobiyyeh (“Russian Compound”) detention facility in Jerusalem:

*Moskobiyyeh detention center “is infamous among Palestinian prisoners and the source of numerous reports of torture and abuse,” - National Lawyers Guild<sup>180</sup>*

**ROOM NO. 4** is an interrogation room in the Russian Compound – the main Israeli police office in Jerusalem – where Palestinian children are investigated.

*“I was thirsty and hungry. When I asked to go to the toilet they told me to pee in my jeans.” -8-year-old child, Room No. 4<sup>181</sup>*

*“They left me in the room for five hours with my hands tied behind my back and legs tied to each other. When I refused to confess they slapped me and tightened my hand ties more and more.” -15-year-old child, Room No. 4<sup>182</sup>*

*“The [policeman] told me to sign, then they used my fingerprint to sign. I don’t know how to read Hebrew.” -13-year-old child, Room No. 4<sup>183</sup>*

<sup>180</sup> <http://www.nlginternational.org/report/Letter-NLG-USState-AymanNasser.pdf>

<sup>181</sup> <http://www.roomno4.org/en/gallery/no-food-water-or-toilets/>

<sup>182</sup> <http://www.roomno4.org/en/gallery/handcuffed-blindfolded/>

<sup>183</sup> *ibid.*

- The interrogation of Palestinian children is done in Hebrew with accompanying documents in Hebrew<sup>184</sup>. Admitting guilt is accompanied by signing these documents.
- In many cases, the interrogators translate for the children and intentionally mislead them<sup>185</sup>
- Translators exaggerate the child's words instead of providing a direct translation, which leads to the child's prosecution by the courts.
- Essentially the result is a document, a "confession", that the child usually does not and cannot understand but one that is considered a valid document by the court, even if the contents are untruthful.
- Although the child may sign the "confession" out of fear, in order to prevent being punished at the time, the signed "confession" may in fact lead to future arrests, abuse, and assault.
- The transportation to interrogation, the process of interrogation, and the fact of being punished for actions the child has not committed can all result in major psychological trauma with long-lasting effects.<sup>186</sup>
  - For example: Children arrested and assaulted by occupation forces in the middle of the night<sup>187</sup>, may suffer from cramps, severe pain and loss of feeling in their extremities, after being blindfolded with their hands cuffed behind their backs for long periods of time<sup>188</sup>.

*Earlier this year, "Mahmoud" came home to see a letter with his name on it, instructing him to come to the "Russian Compound" prison facility in Jerusalem. The 15-year-old Palestinian resident of the Silwan neighborhood of occupied East Jerusalem went to the prison with his father, mother and aunt. He was interrogated for seven hours. "I felt nervous," said Mahmoud, as he quietly explained what happened to him from the office of the Wadi Hilweh Information Center, a news and information center run by Silwan residents.*

*"They took me to a lawyer, then they took my clothes," he recalled. "It wasn't a good situation." Mahmoud spent one week in the Russian Compound in a room with four other teenagers. Israeli police claimed that he threw stones at an Israeli police car and Israeli settler cars passing through Silwan.*

*He wholly denies the charge. "I didn't know how long I would be in the prison. I kept thinking, 'Will I go home or not? Will I go home or not?' It was very bad," Mahmoud said. "A lot of my*

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<sup>184</sup> This is in direct violation of Article 14(3) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966), ratified by Israel in 1992 <http://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/ccpr.aspx>

<sup>185</sup> Ibid.

<sup>186</sup> <http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/library/impact-child-detention-occupied-palestinian-territory>

<sup>187</sup> [http://www.dci-palestine.org/sites/default/files/report\\_0.pdf](http://www.dci-palestine.org/sites/default/files/report_0.pdf)

<sup>188</sup> Ibid

*friends are in jail. It's normal," he added. "But I always think that I will go back [to prison]. I'm afraid of the soldiers and the police." - Mahmoud (15), 2010<sup>189</sup>*

Rasheed Rasmi Al-Rashq, a 14-year-old from Jerusalem was arrested on February 10, 2014 and transferred to the Russian Compound Detention Center, according to a story in the Middle East Monitor on March 24, 2014<sup>190</sup>:

- He was interrogated for 30 days non-stop. On one occasion he was left naked overnight until the morning.
- He was harassed by prison guards while the investigators tied him to a chair, insulted him, and spat on him.
- According to Al-Rashq, the investigators prevented him from going outside like the rest of the prisoners or from taking part in educational classes, and they forced him to clean the rooms.
- He said his jailors often played extremely loud and strange noises during the night to disturb his sleep. This caused him severe headaches.<sup>191</sup>

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<sup>189</sup> <http://electronicintifada.net/content/targeting-silwans-children/9126>

<sup>190</sup> <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/news/middle-east/10489-palestinian-prisoner-14-tortured-in-israeli-jail>

<sup>191</sup> <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/news/middle-east/10489-palestinian-prisoner-14-tortured-in-israeli-jail>





(Hunger Strike Image by Hafez Omar)

## Part V: Conclusion

*“G4S has attempted to deflect the criticism it has been facing<sup>192</sup> by announcing that it intends to end some aspects of its involvement in Israel’s illegal settlements by 2015. But its public announcements make no mention of the prisons G4S helps to run inside Israel. Even if G4S does implement the withdrawals it has announced, it will remain deeply complicit in Israel’s apartheid system, especially its abhorrent prison system.” -BDS Movement*

*“Worried by the mounting criticism of its work in Palestine, G4S resolved in 2002 to pull out of contracts to provide services to residential West Bank settlements<sup>193</sup>. In 2010, after further criticism from campaigners and investors, G4S commissioned Hjalte Rasmussen, an expert on international law, to investigate the legality of its contracts in the West Bank and Israel...Rasmussen’s verdict of innocence for G4S was also based on an insistence that there was no evidence of “systematic abuse of prisoners in Israeli jails”, which directly contradicts the findings of numerous human rights groups<sup>194</sup> and yet the company continues to service businesses in the settlements, police stations in the oPt, and prisons within Israel. -Corporate Watch UK*

*“In March 2011, in the wake of Rasmussen’s report, G4S announced that, “to ensure that our business practices remain in line with our own Business Ethics Policy, we will aim to exit a number of contracts*

<sup>192</sup> Ibid. ([http://business-humanrights.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/company\\_responses/g4s-israel-apr-24-2012.pdf](http://business-humanrights.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/company_responses/g4s-israel-apr-24-2012.pdf))

<sup>193</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2002/oct/09/israel>

<sup>194</sup> <http://www.corporatewatch.org.uk/company-profiles/g4s-palestine>

*which involve the servicing of security equipment at the barrier checkpoints, prisons and police stations in the West Bank. We will aim to complete this exit as soon as possible, but also recognize that we have contractual obligations to our customers which we must take into consideration.”<sup>195</sup> The company made clear that it would continue servicing businesses in the settlements and prisons within Israel. It is likely that resistance against G4S will therefore continue until the company exits all its Israeli contracts.” -Excerpt from Corporate Watch<sup>196</sup>*

### **The Israeli Occupation’s assault on the rights of children in the oPt is by no means easing.**

On the 25th of March, 2015 Defence for Children International-Palestine reported that 30 Palestinian children had been shot by Israeli forces since the beginning of 2015 alone<sup>197</sup>.

According to a Ma’an News article, “Israeli military courts rarely prosecute members of Israeli forces in such cases. From 2000-2012, only 117 of 2,207 investigations opened by the Military Police Criminal Investigations Division were indicted, about 5 percent of the total files opened, according to Israeli human rights group Yesh Din.”<sup>198</sup>

Since 2000, Israeli security forces have killed over 8,896 Palestinians. At least 1,900 of those have been children, according to DCI-Palestine. All of this occurs in the public eye, and what goes on behind closed doors, within prison and detention facilities, is but an extension of these practices in private, magnifying the effects that the occupation has on the lives of children and their families.

G4S is not directly responsible as a company for the Israeli occupation of Palestine or the ugly practice of child detention. Even so, as members of a global society, it is the collective responsibility of all of us, including G4S, to work to end to both child detention and the occupation of Palestine.

G4S is complicit in that it profits from both of these systems, by supplying parts of the infrastructure facilitating them. It is our responsibility to pressure G4S to withdraw completely from its contracts with Israel; it is our social responsibility to insist that the abusive detention<sup>199</sup> of Palestinian prisoners, in particular the detention of children, be limited and/or ceased.

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◆ List of known public G4S contracts in the USA

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<sup>195</sup> Ibid. (<http://whoprofits.org/sites/default/files/WhoProfits-PrivateSecurity-G4S.pdf>)

<sup>196</sup> Ibid. ([http://www.corporatewatch.org/sites/default/files/G4S\\_profile\\_Sep12.pdf](http://www.corporatewatch.org/sites/default/files/G4S_profile_Sep12.pdf))

<sup>197</sup> <http://www.maannews.com/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=760075>

<sup>198</sup> Ibid.

<sup>199</sup> <http://www.scribd.com/doc/248780890/Prisoners-of-Injustice-Report-of-the-National-Lawyers-Guild-Delegation-to-Palestine#scribd>



