



Working Together:
Justice Can Prevail.
Peace Is Possible

June 2018

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This month learn about our Summer Giving Campaign: Demand Child Justice: Document Child Detention in the occupied Palestinian territories; view pictures from our advocacy Summit, And Still We Rise, that took place in June in Washington, D.C., and get a brief update on the Pilgrimage to Peace (P2P) tours that went out around the country following the Summit.

Be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) @ChurchesforMEP to see the latest news and updates!



Each year, approximately 500-700 Palestinian minors in the West Bank between the ages 12-17 are prosecuted in the Israeli military court system. Mistreatment of Palestinian youth within this system is widespread and well documented. Without access to their parents or a lawyer, youth often sign confessions of guilt in Hebrew, a language they likely cannot read or understand.

In November 2017, Representative Betty McCollum (MN) introduced historic legislation shining a light on the mistreatment of Palestinian youth entangled in the Israeli military detention system. [HR 4391, Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Youth](#), seeks to ensure U.S. taxpayer funds to Israel are not used in a manner that violates the rights of Palestinian children. Palestinian youth under the age of 18 comprise nearly 50% of the total population. For there to be any hope of peace in Israel-Palestine, Palestinian youth must not live in

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) is excited to partner with [Defense for Children International-Palestine](#) (DCI-P) for our Summer 2018 Campaign: *Demand Child Justice: Document Detention in the Occupied Palestinian territories*. Your support will help DCI-P document individual cases of mistreatment experienced by Palestinian youth and will help CMEP raise awareness for HR 4391 on Capitol Hill.

FACTS AT A GLANCE

CHILD DETENTIONS

1.3
MILLION

PALESTINIAN CHILDREN IN
WEST BANK.

NUMBER OF PALESTINIAN
CHILDREN DETAINED ANNUALLY.

**500-
700**

PERCENTAGE OF DETAINED
CHILDREN REPORT
EXPERIENCING PHYSICAL
VIOLENCE.

75

84

PERCENTAGE OF DETAINED
CHILDREN HAVE NOT BEEN
READ THEIR LEGAL RIGHTS.

66

PERCENTAGE OF DETAINED
CHILDREN ARE HELD IN
SOLITARY CONFINEMENT FOR
AVERAGE OF 13 DAYS.

PERCENTAGE OF DETAINED
CHILDREN SIGN CONFESSIONS
NOT IN THEIR NATIVE LANGUAGE.

33

(Statistics as of April 2016 as cited in [H.R. 4391](#))

Make a Donation

Donations help support DCIP's monitoring and documentation of child detentions, injuries and fatalities across the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Choose an amount below to donate to a specific action, or [donate an amount of your choice](#).

\$25

\$50

\$100

Stories from the Field

Alaa Balata: Right to a Childhood

In Jabalia, Gaza's most populated refugee camp, some 110,000 refugees pack an area of only 1.4 square kilometers.

Lacking a steady supply of basic services, like water and electricity, Jabalia has been hit hard by the eight-year Israeli siege on Gaza.

On July 28, 2014, 17-year-old Alaa Balata moved with his family to his uncle's house deep inside Jabalia refugee camp and farther from the Israeli tanks shelling everywhere along Gaza's border.

"[My father] thought we would be safer here."

[Read More](#)

Fadel Abu Odwan: Injuries

Palestinians across the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip held marches on May 15 to commemorate the Nakba or "catastrophe", which marks the forced displacement and dispossession of Palestinians from their homeland in 1948.

On Nakba Day in 2014, in the West Bank town of Beitunia, local Palestinians decided to gather around Ofer military court and prison to protest in solidarity with over 100 prisoners on a hunger strike against their administrative detention by Israeli authorities.

Among those to join the protest were 17-year-old Nadeem Siam Nawara and 16-year-old Mohammad Mahmoud Odeh Abu Daher.

[Read More](#)

Nadeem Nawara and Mohammad Mahmoud Odeh Abu Daher: Fatalities

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[Read More](#)

[**Visit the full Document Detention page and learn more about ways you can make a difference.**](#)



Thank you to all who helped to make And Still We Rise a success!

Highlights of the summit included an all female speaking program discussing peacebuilding in the Middle East, an Advocacy day where participants went to Capitol Hill to meet with their Congressmen, and post-summit P2P tours that took staff and Middle East delegates all across the country!



View a [gallery of images](#) from the And Still We Rise advocacy summit and the following Pilgrimage to Peace tour that took CMEP staff, volunteers, and Middle East delegates around the country.



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