

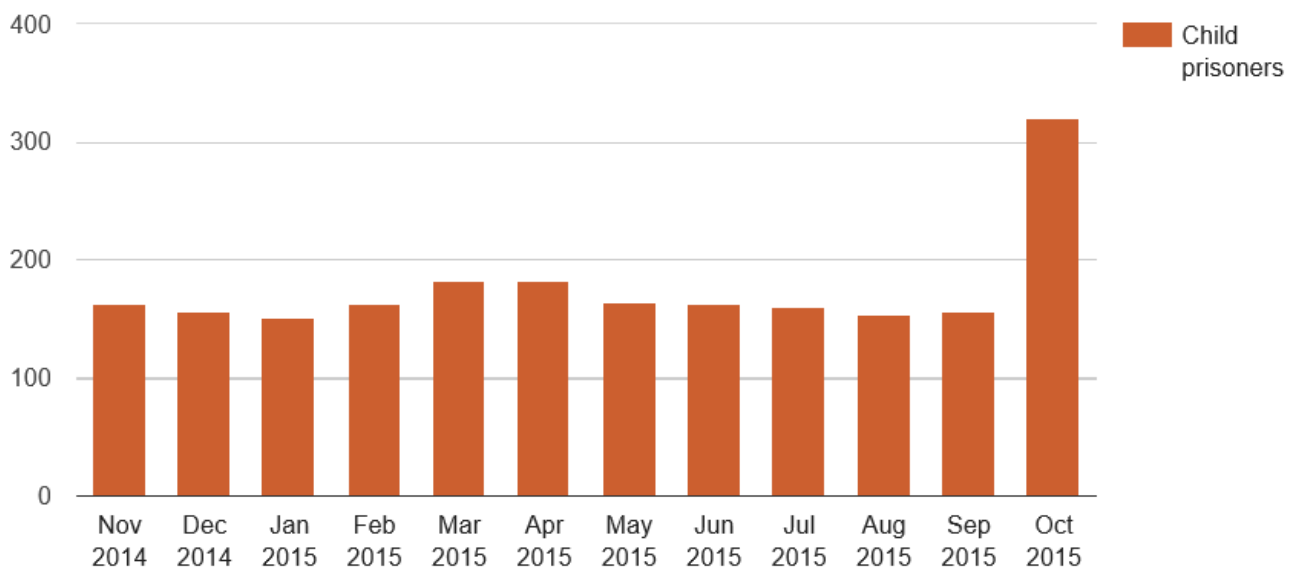
December 2015

Detention of Children

Under International Human Rights Law, children must be afforded special protection and their best interest should always be a primary consideration. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was ratified by Israel in 1991, prohibits the arbitrary detention of children and stipulates that the detention and imprisonment of children should only be used as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time. **Palestinian children, however, are regularly subjected to arrests and detention by Israeli occupation. Children often undergo ill-treatment at the hands of IOF forces and are subject to a wide array of violations. Arrests usually take place in night raids and are often physically and verbally abused during arrest, transfer and detention.**

Almost one fifth of those arrested since 1 October were children, which resulted in tripling the number of Palestinian minors held in Israeli occupation prisons that spiked from 156 children by the end of September to at least 450 children. Israeli occupation also continues to target children with new harsh policies and laws including a new draft law which would allow custodian sentences for children as young as 12, amendments to the Israeli penal code which allow imposing 20-year prison sentences for throwing stones and instituting a minimum sentence of 2-4 years for stone throwing.

There has been a significant rise in the number of children arrested, the highest in a year. The chart below shows the alarming increase in arrests of Palestinian children, which was 163 in November 2014, to 320 in October 2015, indicating a near doubling in number.



Recent Cases:

Ali Alqam (12 years old) is currently the youngest Palestinian child detained by Israeli occupation. Ali was arrested on 8 November after allegedly attempting a stabbing attack in the Jerusalem light train. Ali was shot with live ammunition three times in his abdomen, pelvis and hand by an Israeli security guard. Ali underwent several surgeries to treat the bullet wounds. On 22 November, Ali was transferred to a closed treatment facility pending trial. Ali's cousin, Muawiya Alqam (14 years old) was arrested with Ali in the aftermath of the same incident and is currently detained in Givon Prison.



Salam Quraan (16 years old) was arrested by IOF forces on 14 October on his way back from school in Ramallah. An Israeli soldier assaulted Salam from the back while he was walking home, then proceeded to beat him along with eight other soldiers. Salam was repeatedly beaten for approximately five minutes in the stomach and at least once in the testicles. Salam was then dragged from his feet causing several wounds on his body including his hands and head. Salam was then transferred to a nearby settlement where he was blindfolded and forced to wait in room for several hours. He was slapped several times while waiting and his photos were taken by the soldiers.

A new section in Givon Prison was opened in October 2015 to accommodate the large number of children arrested by IOF forces. Currently there are approximately 70-75 children detained in Givon. Children have complained to Addameer's lawyer about ill-treatment as well as unhygienic conditions and dampness in the prison. Children have also complained that the food they are receiving is insufficient in portions and of poor quality. Several of the children informed Addameer's lawyer Mona Naddaf during a visit on 3rd of December that they are suffering from nightmares, sleep disorder, loss of appetite, sadness and feeling isolated. The children also stated they were subjected to ill-treatment during interrogation including being denied using toilets, being deprived from food, being subjected to physical beating, threats and sleep deprivation. Some of the children, who were injured during arrest, have also complained they aren't receiving medical treatment or are receiving it after significant delays.