

## PETITION

Benjamin Netanyahu  
Prime Minister  
Office of the Prime Minister  
3 Kaplan Street, Hakiryia  
Jerusalem, 91950 Israel

Avigdor Lieberman  
Minister of Defense  
Ministry of Defense  
37 Kaplan Street, Hakiryia,  
Tel Aviv 61909, Israel

## CHILDREN IN ISRAELI DETENTION

Dear Minister,

It has come to our attention that for several years, Israeli lawyers, human rights organizations, and United Nations experts have been publishing reports of **ill treatment of children** who come in contact with the Israeli military detention system. Ill treatment includes being aggressively awakened in the middle of the night by armed soldiers, being forcibly brought to an interrogation centre, tied and blindfolded, in a state of extreme fear. According to UNICEF, approximately 700 **Palestinian children** are detained annually by Israeli forces.

The military detention system for children in Israel is neither in conformity with the **Convention on the Rights of the Child**, nor with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Children are tried by **juvenile military courts** that, by definition, **fall short of providing the necessary guarantees to ensure respect for their rights**. The ill-treatment of children who come in contact with the military detention system appears to be **widespread and systematic** throughout the process, from the moment of arrest until the child's prosecution and eventual conviction and sentencing.

All children prosecuted for offences they allegedly committed should be treated in accordance with **international juvenile justice standards**, which provide them with **special protection**. Most of these protections are enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which Israel has ratified.

### WE CALL ON YOU TO ENSURE THAT:

- the arrest, detention or imprisonment of a child shall be used only as a **measure of last resort** and for the **shortest** appropriate period of time. The best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.
- measures are implemented to ensure that children held in the military detention system **are never subjected to torture** or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, which breach the pledges in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- the **family of the child must be notified** about the arrest, reasons for arrest and place of detention, as soon as possible after the arrest, and in Arabic.
- a **legal guardian** be authorized to accompany the child during transfer and to **stay with the child at all times during interrogation**.
- all children in detention shall have prompt and regular **access to an independent lawyer** of their choice.
- all children who have been detained and are in contact with judicial systems should be **treated with dignity and respect at all times**.

Yours sincerely,

NAME, VORNAME	ANSCHRIFT	UNTERSCHRIFT
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*Petition drafted in July 2016*

