



Defense for Children
International
PALESTINE

Annual Report 2014



Defense for Children International Palestine

DCI- Palestine, an independent child rights organization, defends and promotes the rights of children living in the occupied Palestinian territory. For over 20 years, we have investigated and exposed grave human rights violations against children; held Israeli and Palestinian authorities accountable to universal human rights principles; and advocated at the international and national level to advance access to justice and protections for children. We also provide direct legal aid to children in distress.

For more information, please visit our website:

www.dci-palestine.org

www.facebook.com/dcips

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*In
Dedication
to
Hashem
Abu Maria*



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We extend special thanks to the committed staff, interns, volunteers, and all dedicated people who have served as members of the Board of Directors and General Assembly, as well as to all our partner organisations.

A Foreword from Rifat Odeh Kassis, General Director

The year 2014 has been full of particularly painful challenges for children's rights, and human rights in general, across Palestine and the Arab World – which means it has also been a year marked by especially important work for DCI-Palestine.

In July 2014, the state of Israel waged a massive military assault on the Gaza Strip, killing over 500 children and injuring 3374. Of those injured children, it is calculated that about 1000 have permanent disabilities. DCI-Palestine worked hard to document these atrocities as they transpired, and our advocacy work continues: for accountability, the end of Israeli impunity, and justice for these children whose lives have been either lost or irrevocably altered.

Israel's violence against Palestinian children was hardly limited to Gaza. At several points throughout the year, Israeli military forces have killed Palestinian teenagers – such as the two who were unlawfully and fatally shot on May 15, with strong evidence suggesting the use of live fire. DCI-Palestine produced a video on this event, which circulated throughout the international media and was widely confirmed by eyewitnesses as an accurate portrayal of the occurrences. You can see this video by visiting <https://www.youtube.com/user/DCIPS>.

This year also involved a particularly sorrowful event for all of us at DCI-Palestine and within the human rights community: the killing of Hashem Abu Maria, our beloved Community Mobilization Unit Coordinator and the coordinator of DCI-Palestine offices in the northern and southern West Bank. Hashem was shot in the chest with live ammunition by Israeli soldiers on July 25, 2014, while peacefully participating in a demonstration in Beit Ummar. His death has inexpressibly pained his family, friends, and colleagues. Hashem died as he lived: standing strong and accompanying his community in the struggle against injustice. We miss him terribly, even as we admire him for being a true defender of human rights: risking one's own life and dedicating it to others.

But we must also remember that 2014 has been a year of progress and accomplishments. On the international level, one of our key achievements was the creation of a work station in the United States. DCI-Palestine's US colleague is based in New York, working closely with different international and UN organizations to advance and amplify our advocacy messages within UN structures and other international organizations. We have also established a foundation in the Netherlands called Tadamun: Foundation in Solidarity with Palestinian Children; its founders and the board members are highly regarded human rights defenders from across Europe.

On the regional level, and with the support of DCI's Geneva-based International Secretariat and International Executive Council, DCI-Palestine is leading a regional project to expand DCI's work at the Arab World. We are proud to report that our

intensive work has led to the establishment of about ten DCI sections in this region – so far!

In terms of DCI-Palestine’s work at home, our advocacy work reaches greater coverage all the time, and our joint work and mutual support with international child and human rights organizations grow ever stronger. Our Documentation Unit has increased in professionalism and specialization this year, documenting and monitoring violations of children’s rights with greater accuracy. This unit was responsible, for example, for producing the video I mentioned at the start of this message: the video, which captured the unlawful killing of two children near Ofer Prison in May.

In other news, we have been implementing a community-based child rights protection approach as part of our Protection Program, and we have intensified our work in five especially marginalized governorates across Palestine. This new approach is part of a broader philosophy: our relationship and active joint work with local communities is our most important and effective asset.

On the administrative level, we have worked throughout 2014 to strengthen our managerial systems. We have expanded our General Assembly by incorporating various young adults, who had been trained by DCI-Palestine for such participation when they were children. Meanwhile, the role of our Board of Directors has solidified and continues to garner respect: as DCI-Palestine is run by the efforts and spirit of its volunteers, the Board of Directors is the body that most directly represents them. We have also fortified the internal Staff Leadership Group (SLG) in managing our organization, a body that improves internal communication and cooperation. We continue to work on building up our internal managerial systems, too, to enhance democratic principles and practices within the organizational structure.

I’d like to conclude this message with some bittersweet news for me: I am leaving my position as General Director of DCI-Palestine. As much as I will miss the DCI “family” and the work we have undertaken together for so long, I feel no fear for the future of the organization: in the recent period, as I have mentioned above, we have successfully strengthened our internal administrative systems, streamlined and improved our programmatic work, and both built and expanded wonderful working relationships on local, regional, and international levels. DCI-Palestine is truly in fine form, and I know it remains in excellent hands.

In a personal sense, then, I leave DCI-Palestine full of gratitude and admiration for my colleagues – and for all of you, our friends and supporters, for believing in our work and making it possible. Thank you.

Rifat Odeh Kassis
General Director







Protection and Community Mobilization Program

Violence against children in the Palestinian territories has been on the rise, especially in area C of the West bank. Area C is highly marginalized where many territories are off-limits to Palestinian residential or community use due to the inability to obtain permits from Israeli civil administration. In addition, Israel puts restrictions on mobility in the form of checkpoints and also controls all natural resources, including water resources. Thus, children in these areas are at risk of de-development, forced displacement and social dysfunction.

Children in area C experience many forms of violence; in some cases poverty and the deteriorating economic conditions force high number of children into labor and in other cases children's neglect at home and schools put many of them at risk of abuse and exploitation.

Furthermore, children in conflict with the law face a punitive juvenile justice system out of line with international standards, where rehabilitation and child detention centers do not provide all the necessary services to detained children.

Thus, The Protection and Community Mobilization Program monitors children's rights status in the Palestinian territories, at the national level, and in terms of legislations, policies and practices that affect children in their everyday life. On one hand, it works on combating violence and creating protective communities for children, and on the other hand, the program seeks to monitor and document child rights violations against children in conflict with the law and child victims of violence.

All documented cases are used for advocacy purposes, where stakeholders are targeted and contacted to help enhance children's rights situation through different means such as meetings, sending complaints, publishing case studies and press articles, using visual media sources, advocacy campaigns, and social media.

Community Mobilization Unit

The community mobilization unit represents a form of intervention to guarantee the protection of children's rights and advocate for their enhancement through highlighting children's needs and priorities. During 2014, the unit worked on mobilizing the local community to take a role in creating protective child environments through adopting community based protection approach. Fifteen locations from five different governorates in Area C, listed below, were identified and targeted

- **Hebron** including the old city, Arrub and Fawar camp
- **Jerusalem** including the Old City, Shufat Camp and Hezma
- **Nablus** including Burin, Oureef, and Madama
- **Tubas** including Ein AL-baida, Bardala, Atuf and Ras Al-hamra
- **Qalqilya** include Azzun, Atmeh and Azzun Shamyeh)

Community based protection approach fundamentally works on motivating and mobilizing all active members of the community including academics, professionals, institutions, children and parents; in order to develop child rights based programs, protect children's rights and enable children to voice their opinions on issues that are important to them.

The unit's work plan aims to advocate for the promotion of policies, practices and laws built on child's rights principles and to enhance the knowledge and skills of children to enable them to be active participants in their communities. Thus, the following results were achieved:



Result one: Local community actors including CBOs and children are empowered to identify children at risk, and monitor child rights violations and provide protection.

Result Two: duty bearers, relevant stakeholders and decision makers are holding accountable and responsible for upholding children’s rights to protection and participation.

Result Three: Children are able to participate actively within their communities towards a more positive and child friendly communities.



Result 1: Local community actors including CBOs and children are empowered to identify children at risk, and monitor child rights violations and provide protection.

Activity 1:

Twenty workshops were implemented to discuss the principles of community-based protection with CBOs, social actors, parents and children. The workshops aimed to identify children's struggles in each of the targeted areas, recognize people's attitude towards child participation, promote child participation principles, and mobilize the role of CBOs and community actors to take responsibility in enhancing child's rights. 316 participants including 156 children between 14-17 years of age (66 females and 90 males) participated in these workshops.

Activity 2:

Two training courses on documenting and monitoring violations and children rights were given to children and adults from the different targeted areas. 61 people including 33 children (11 females and 22 males) and 28 adults (18 females and 10 males) participated in the workshops.

Activity 3:

Four training courses on the child-led data collection process were offered, including one training course in Jerusalem with 21 participants and 3 training courses for children and members of CBOs from the five governorates with 33 participants including 26 children (13 males and 13 females)

Activity 4:

A report on the data collected from Jerusalem was made and presented to 63 participants, at an event held in cooperation with the Ministry of Education. The participants included 45 children under the age of 14 (39 females and 6 males) and 18 children (13 females and 5 males) between the ages of 14 and 17.

Activity 5:

Capacity building training for CBOs from the five governorates on the use of literature to express human rights issues. Twenty-seven people participated in the course, including 16 females and 11 males. This course was done in cooperation with Diakonia Association and the Arab Network for Children's Rights.

Activity 6:

Trained and empowered five CBOs to work towards enhancing the situation of children's rights in their governorates. Each of the CBOs (Pikeaa Agricultural Development Association, Yamen Culture and Social Center, Social Reform and Charity Society, Sawa Institution for Society Development, AL Mahawer Society) were given 3000\$ to implement initiatives that targeted 422 people in total; including 301 children (95 females and 206 males).

Activity 7:

Established fifteen protection teams in the 5 governorates were each of the teams included 5-7 children between the ages 14 and 16 years old. Professionals and activists from the CBOS participated in this project and the total number of child participants was 84 children (36 females and 48 males). The teams take responsibility to document violations against children and analyze information to put an end to these violations.



Activity 8:

Established social communications networks among the teams in each district so they can share information regarding their work. 15 cases of violence against children on the hands of Israeli soldier and 8 cases of societal violence were documented and transferred to DCI's child's justice unit.

Activity 9:

Protection teams took the initiative to organize community events such as festivals and open days, including commemorating the Palestinian Children's Day in coordination with Save the Children, TIPH, and Palestinian Network for children's Rights. 2370 people participated in these events including 2150 children under the age of eighteen.



Result 2: Duty bearers, relevant stakeholders and decision makers are holding accountable and responsible for upholding children's rights to protection and participation.

Activity 1:

Preparatory meetings were held for the formation of 8 regional committees to combat the economic exploitation of children in eight governorates attended by 108 participants from official institutions and civil society organizations (62 females and 46 males). These committees are composed of public and civil organizations and bodies, including Ministries of Social Affairs, Labor, Education, Local Authority, chambers of commerce, trade unions, children, parents, businessmen clubs, governors' offices, the police and members of the media.

Activity 2:

Three training courses given to regional committees' members including two for adults attended by 60 trainees (33 females + 27 males) and a training course for children was attended by 24 children (12 females + 12 males). The purpose of the training courses was to educate committees about the importance of social responsibility. 16 initiatives will be implemented by these committees to combat economic exploitation of children.

Activity 3:

8 activities on child labor were attended by 83 children (38 females and 50 males) including meetings with decision-makers, showing documentaries or plays, and presenting drawings and pictures of the child laborers

Activity 4:

Regional committees organized 8 initiatives focused on group visits to places of child labor, where awareness raising activities in schools were implemented in addition to, designing posters, parades, and showing documentaries

Activity 5:

The 12th national conference titled «social responsibility to combat the economic exploitation of children» was held and community-based initiatives to protect children from economic exploitation were presented. 16 community initiative to reduce the exploitation of children in total were presented (8 initiatives for adults and 8 initiatives reflect the vision and the voice of children. 353 participants attended the Conference (180 females and 173 males), including 70 children (33 females and 37 males) aged between 14 -16 years .

Result 3: Children are able to participate actively within their communities towards a more positive and child friendly communities.

Activity 1:

Children received communication skills training as well as a training on teamwork, planning and advocacy as part of the central summer camp on human rights named after the martyr «Hashem Abu Maria» and designed for protection groups and youth councils. The number of participants was 66 children, including 23 females and the number of adults was 19 including 10 females. In addition, one summer camp on human rights took place in each of the following areas as well (Tubas, Qalqilya, Jerusalem, Nablus and Hebron) with 403 participants (187 females +206 males +10 senior adults).

Activity 2:

Children initiatives: children implemented 10 initiatives on how to improve their daily lives, child's rights and violations against children. 270 people participated in the events including 266 children (107 children, females +159 male children)

Activity 3:

The children participated in a cultural exchange to Ireland in June involving 6 children (3 boys +3 females) and 2 adults (1 females +1 male)



Child Justice Unit

The defense of children's rights includes protection, rehabilitation, legal assistance and empowerment of children and their families to help them defend their rights by understanding and upholding these rights.

This year, there has been a political will to comply with the international standards for children's rights. This was demonstrated in the signing and commitment to abide by the recommendations of the International Convention of Children's rights. Yet, there are still many gaps in legislations and policies, which lead to violations of child rights in the Palestinian territories. These include the non-compliance with the applicable laws, the absence of protective legal texts, and the lack of resources available to child care and protection centers.

Thus, the vision of the unit is contribute to the creation of a fair legislative system and an environment in line with international law, in addition to being a human rights and legal reference in the field of child protection.

In 2014, the Unit aimed at monitoring the physical standards of children detention centers and at working on raising them to meet the international standards. In addition, it aimed to follow up on violations against children victims of violence and children in conflict with the law. Thus, the following results were achieved:

Result 1: Juvenile care centers, prisons, police cells and protection centers were monitored to ensure they comply with the international standards for further improvements

Result 2: Workshops were organized in juvenile care centers, reform and rehabilitation centers, and police cells.

Result 3: Direct correspondences to relevant authorities associated with violating child's rights

Result 4: Systematic documentation based on the accuracy, objectivity and content of the information

Result 5: Enhancing the capacities of Child Protection Networks

Result 6: Follow-up on cases of children victims of community violence and neglect

Result 1: Juvenile care centers, prisons, police cells and protection centers were monitored to ensure they comply with the international standards for further improvements

Fifty-seven monitoring visits to different centers were conducted. The visits aimed to monitor detention conditions, and approach the management of these centers about violating children's rights. The visits revealed that the majority of places of child detention in Palestine failed to comply with the international standards for detention centers and need improvement due to the following reason:

1. There are no detention centers that are partially closed to allow children to communicate with their natural environment, as provided by the international standards, with the exception of Dar Al Amal Rehabilitation Center and the Girls Care Home.
2. Many detention center do not provide vocational training and good quality education.
3. Places of detention fail to maintain children's privacy by not allocating places for their personal belongings.
4. Most of detention centers have high humidity and poor sanitation systems.
5. Shortage of available mattresses, beds and other necessities in juvenile and police cells
6. Most detention centers are overcrowded.
7. Children in some temporary detention centers are detained with adults, such as detention centers in small towns and villages.

Result 2: Workshops were organized in juvenile care centers, reform and rehabilitation centers, and police cells.

Twenty workshops were implemented at Juvenile detention centers, rehabilitation centers and Dar Alamal. The workshops targeted 199 children and staff members (118 children and 81 staff members including 3 female staff members)

These workshops aimed at raising awareness among children in conflict with the law on their rights within the detention centers and throughout judicial processes, as well as, on the regulations in force within the centers and complaints procedures for violations against children. In addition, to bringing the views of the children, officers and supervisors closer together and involve children in the decision making process on issues affecting them in accordance with regulations of the detention centers.

Result 3: Direct correspondences to relevant authorities associated with violating child's rights

Correspondences communicated to the Palestinian security services for arresting 20 children for criminal and political reasons. These entities have the status of judicial

detention in accordance with the presidential decree of 2007, however juvenile police is the only competent body authorized to follow up on any interrogative measures or collect statements from children.

Result 4: Systematic documentation based on the accuracy, objectivity and content of the information

After documenting 15 cases of violations against children by the security forces due to bad detention conditions or by the police for beating up children during riots. The unit produced a report regarding juvenile police specialization. The objective of this report identifies Juvenile Police roles and responsibilities. The report is the first in the Palestinian territories to study this subject and review the most important international standards in comparison to experiences on the ground. It also studied the possibility of developing the role of the authority within the police in dealing with children in conflict with the law.

A Presentation addressed the most important international standards for children detention centers and workshops on the subject matter were held in 11 provinces in cooperation with the governors offices where the number of participants in these workshops was about 235 participants, including (92 females and 143 males)

Result 5: Enhancing the capacities of Child Protection Networks

Through Child Justice Unit, DCI-Palestine plays a leading role in the development of the national protection system for child protection networks in the Palestinian territories. Through participating in the meetings of the Steering Committee and in all meetings of the technical committees at the national level or directly coordinating with the Ministry of Social Affairs the following was accomplished:

Seventy legal consultations were provided to all CPN partners and coordinators, since DCI lawyers of the Child Justice Unit are the only legal entity that can provide this help. In addition to that, the unit contributes to raising CPN capacity in the legal aspects concerning child protection and the amendments to the Child Law and the laws protecting the children. 20 workshops were conducted within the networks in Tubas, Jericho, Salfit and Hebron, with the participation of 298 children and 645 adults; including 120 males and 227 females.

The Ministry of Social Affairs, recognized the role DCI plays in the development and empowerment of the Ministry of Social Affairs work in the protection of children. Thus, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry and DCI was signed; to contribute to the development of protection networks for the year 2015 and to contribute to strengthening the role of the ministry in the establishment of a Higher Council for Childhood, as well as, supporting the ministry in the development of capabilities in legal aid for cases of children in conflict with the law.

The unit participated in 12 case conferences with different sectors, professions and coordinators of the protection network to ensure a multi-disciplinary professional intervention in the best interest of the child victims of violence and children in conflict with the law.

The unit also participated in 67 meetings with the network to plan, follow-up on problems faced on the ground, and assess the work.

Result 6: Follow-up on cases of children victims of community violence and neglect

According to articles 32-36 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, children have the right to protection from all forms of exploitation and abuse, and thus the following approaches were taken:

- Followed up on 30 cases of children victims of community violence and referred them to the protection networks.
- Followed up on 13 cases that were referred to different organizations for psychosocial support.
- Monitored 14 cases of children victims of economic exploitation who were referred for social support and rehabilitation institutions
- Monitored 50 cases of children victims of economic exploitation and provided legal consultation for them
- Provided 105 legal consultations for children victims of violence.
- Closed 8 files for children in conflict with the law as a result stopping the criminal prosecution due to rising the age of accountability in Nablus and Tobas.

The Unit also worked on changing the behavior and methodology followed in the Palestinian courts regarding children's issues in conflict with the law; to respect the rights of the child, emphasize the principle of the best interests of the child and the principle of using detention only as a last resort and for the shortest possible period.

The juvenile justice system in the Palestinian territories does not provide protection for children in conflict with the law. Children in conflict with the law are victims of social and economic problems, and family negligence.

- 81 children in conflict with the law were provided legal representation, due to the small number of agencies that provide this service.
- 364 court sessions attended to represent children in conflict with the law in all the courts of the West Bank.
- 116 release requests demanded for children in conflict with the law.
- Represented 9 children in front of the Appeal's court
- 31 files of children in conflict with the law were closed before first instance courts, and 2 cases closed after being appealed.

67 meetings were held with various justice parties to discuss coordination and legal representation processes, or follow up with judges, prosecutors and rehabilitation centers, as well as observe behavior changes regarding children in conflict with the law.

Success Story (1) The ability to influence some of the pillars of juvenile justice system, despite the lack of a law that allows the search for alternative litigation measures. Nablus Court of First Instance adopted a speedy approach in handling juvenile cases, and taking into account the content and the recommendations of the probation officer's report, in addition to giving priority to juvenile cases by validating safety measures, secret hearings, and holding families accountable for their children.

Success Story (2) Following an interrogation of a seven-year-old child was by the police in one of the towns in Nablus. The unit met with the Nablus police chief to highlight the roles and responsibilities and the powers of the juvenile police specified in the instructions of Police Director General. The unit stressed that the police stations in different towns should not take statements of children, as they are not specialized. Accordingly, the Nablus police chief issued a directive banning any party except the juvenile police from taking statements of any child.

Success Story (3) The ability to influence the directives of the prosecution and the judges with regard to sexual assault on a child by his teacher. A request was filed to the court to exclude the cross-examining of the child for the second time, as the child was a victim of a sexual assault about four years ago. Both the prosecution and the court approved the request and tightened the punishment of the defendant.

Success Story (4) N. A., 17 year old boy in the 12th grade, was arrested by the police following a fight on the public road and was accused of causing minimal damage. He was tried and sentenced to three months in prison after being found guilty and the refusal of the other party to settle and reconcile. DCI lawyer filed a request to replace the imprisonment with a fine, providing a legal text to illustrate the risks and effects of deprivation of liberty on children and the impact of the sentence on the child's academic performance as he had to take the final examinations as scheduled. The court therefore released him after paying a fine, and the child's right to education was not affected.

Case Study:

Children in conflict with the law are victims of domestic violence

17 years old, H.W. from Qalqilya is still on trial in front of the Palestinian judiciary since four years ago on charges of theft contrary to article 404 of the Jordanian Penal Code of 1960 in force in the Palestinian territories Act. H.W. was charged with theft in 2011 when he was 14 years old, and his file was transferred to court at the end of 2013. When DCI lawyers met H.W, he stated that he regrets what he had done and is embarrassed for his actions in the past. Later, DCI lawyers discovered that the child is a victim of domestic violence.

The father regularly hit his children when they disobeyed his orders regarding the practice of their religion. The rituals the father practiced which included beating oneself up while chanting Sufi prayers used to scare his children. W.H refused to practice his father's traditions and was often beaten by a hose or power cord for it. W.H was also separated from his mother at the age of 10 as the father didn't allow his children to live with their mother or be around any woman after the age of ten.

DCI legally represented the child and held a conference with the Ministry of Social Affairs and the police, to develop an intervention plan. The child now lives with his maternal grandmother, has a job that provides some money for him and visits his mother regularly.

DCI observations:

Children in conflict with the law are victims of neglect and domestic violence

The father was not held accountable by law for violent acts against his children

For children's cases a speedy trial is important for a number of reasons, including:

1. Children might forget the details of an incident and their argument to defend themselves becomes weaker.
2. Any delay makes the child feel scared of the future and fear the possibility of imprisonment
3. Psychological distress the children go through in these situations

The main problems and challenges in this case are:

- In Palestine, the legal system to date does not provide protection for children in conflict with the law.
- The lack of available resources for the Ministry of Social Affairs, which adversely affect the services, provided to children in conflict with the law and children victims of violence
- Obstacles facing child protection networks in the Palestinian territories negatively affects the nature and quality of services provided to children.
- The limited number of institutions; including rehabilitation centers, available to provide help for children in conflict with the law.
- The Complex security and political situation in the Palestinian territories.



Accountability and Legal Work Program

There is an imbalance between Israeli and Palestinian access and representation in international media. While the perspective of the Israeli government and Israeli citizens are frequently portrayed, Palestinian stories are often excluded. This means that Palestinian organizations have to devise and implement new media strategies.

Thus, the accountability program combines legal expertise with cutting edge communication tools to strengthen children rights work. The program pioneered new ways to convey its messages. Videos and social media were integrated into the advocacy toolbox and our strategy was shaped in a way to take maximum advantage of new technology.

The documentation unit works on documenting and monitoring conflict-related violations of Palestinian children’s rights, prioritizing four violation areas: killing/maiming, detention/torture, settler/soldier violence, and recruitment.

The legal unit works on legally defending cases of Palestinian child detainees before the Israeli courts (military and civil).

While, the advocacy unit works on evidence-based advocacy initiatives in order to expose and change policies and practices harmful to Palestinian children

DCI-Palestine has been growing an engaged online community that demands freedom, dignity, and justice for Palestinian children. Tweets and Facebook posts garner hundreds of shares. The graphs below show the growth of the movement on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube in 2014.

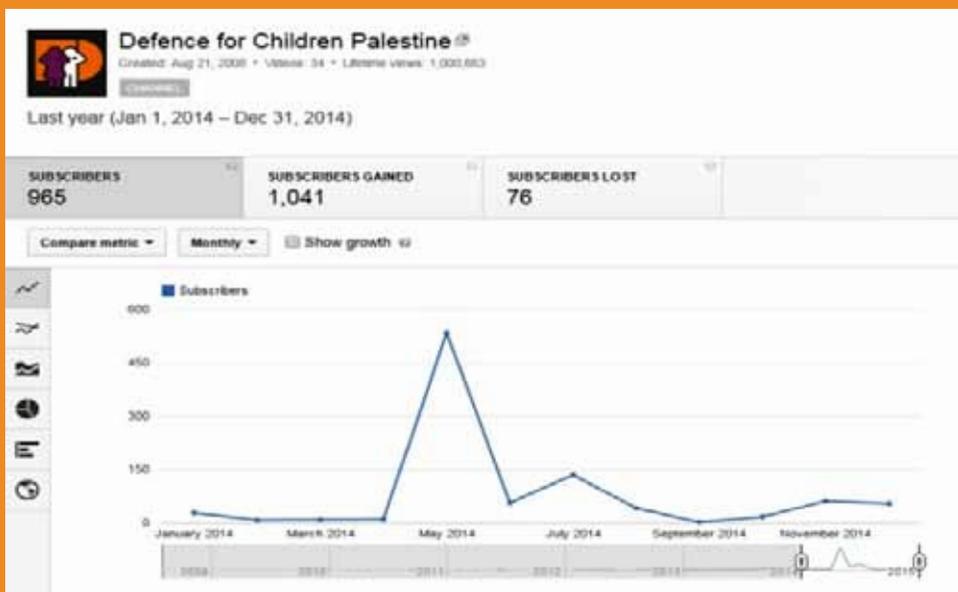
Growth in Facebook Followers in 2014



Growth in Twitter Followers in 2014



Growth in Youtube subscribers in 2014



Documentation Unit:

Conflict-related violations of Palestinian children's rights are monitored and documented, prioritizing four violation areas: killing/maiming, detention/torture, settler/soldier violence, and recruitment.

During 2014, the collection of documents and statements for the following cases was done through field visits and follow-ups:

- Thirteen cases of children killed in the West bank including East Jerusalem, eleven of them killed due to the use of live ammunition against them by the Israeli occupation forces.
- Nine cases of children injured due to settler violence in the West bank.
- Two cases of children killed by the Israeli occupation forces in Gaza before the last war on Gaza in July 2014 and one case of child killed due to unexploded ordnance after the war.
- 547 cases of children killed during the 2014 war on Gaza. A total of 461 cases of serious injuries among children due to Israeli occupation forces violence and attacks in the West Bank and Gaza strip.
- One case in which Israeli occupation forces used a Palestinian child as a human shield. This case involved a 16-year-old boy who was detained for five days, physically assaulted, and made to search for tunnels inside the Gaza Strip.
- In addition, five cases of attacks on schools, including the attack on Sawiyat-Allabn Secondary School by Israeli soldiers, two attacks on Jaffa Secondary School for Boys in Nablus, an attack on Buren High School, and an attack on Boys Secondary School for Orphanage in Jerusalem.
- Torture reports from children detainees and ex-detainees were also collected for 26 cases of torture and mistreat by the Israeli occupation forces



ActiveStills.org

Legal Unit:

Cases of Palestinian child detainees before the Israeli courts (military and civil) are legally defended, their situation are monitored and observed to better comply with the international Humanitarian Law

Children in military courts

The procedures adopted by Israeli military courts disregard the basic standards for fair trial and the general principles of juvenile justice. In many cases, Israeli occupation forces follow the same procedures for adults and children despite Military Order 1644 which provides special juvenile military court to prosecute children. This has been observed by DCI lawyers through its work in military courts in Ofer and Salem and thus, DCI conducted Sixty four visits to Israeli prisons; where 188 children were visited, and 122 sworn affidavits and 122 torture forms for monitoring Israeli violations against children during arrest, interrogation and trial were collected. Furthermore, the legal unit in 2014 accomplished the following tasks:

1. The unit received 114 new files during the reporting period; 3 of which were released from police custody with certain conditions, 18 were released from police custody without conditions, 5 were released from court with certain conditions. 109 files were closed with the issuance of different sentences or the prosecution did not file charges against them or referred to other lawyers.
2. The lawyers were also able to monitor Israeli violations and gather information for the purposes of advocacy at the international level to highlight and expose Israeli practices.
3. Following the visits and the collection of the sworn affidavits, 9 complaints against the Israeli army were lodged on behalf of children to hold the perpetrators accountable for their actions.
4. As part of its role in exposing and challenging Israeli practices and violations committed by courts, the unit coordinated visits of 17 foreign delegations to the military courts.

Key changes in the military court system in 2014

On September 10, 2014, Military Order 1745 came into effect stating that interrogations by Israeli police involving a child must be conducted in the child's own language, documented in writing in the language of the interrogation, and audio or video recorded when the interrogation is not being documented in the child's own language. The order also requires video recording for offenses carrying a maximum sentence of more than 10 year

While the new order appears to implement significant changes to procedures for interrogating Palestinian children, it does not apply to children suspected of committing "security offenses" such as throwing stones. Importantly, the utility of the new order is severely restricted because the provisions do not apply to a child suspected of committing a security offense as detailed in Military Order 1651, which nearly all children arrested by Israeli forces and interrogated by Israeli police are alleged to have committed.



In February 2014 the Israeli occupation forces declared that a new pilot program relying on written summonses would be implemented as an alternative to night arrests. However, in exercise DCI-Palestine noticed the following practices against the intention of the recent amendments in the military orders:

- Almost all children and their families are not informed of the reason for their arrest, no documents are provided.
- Family members are not informed of the reason for arrest or the location to where the child will be taken.
- In just few cases children are informed of their right to silence and their right to consult a lawyer.
- Custody is still the norm. No alternatives to detention.
- Solitary confinement is used as an interrogation technique.

However, through DCI-Palestine first-hand practice in courts, the amendments to the military court system have had little if any positive impact as the level of punishment, and court proceedings have not changed. In other words, the new military orders are only formalities to improve the image of the courts without benefiting the detained children or their families.



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Other Juvenile Military Orders and DCI's observations:

Article 136 of Military Order 1676 of 2011 does not authorize military courts to impose imprisonment sentence on children under the age of 12. However, children under the age of 12 could be arrested and detained for hours before being released, in many cases only after their families are obliged to pay a bail. In addition, another fact that highlights the arbitrariness of these courts is that the child's age is calculated on the day of the trial and not at the commission of the offense.

However, it was also observed that lodging complaints against the Israeli authorities on violations against children during arrest, interrogation or in courts has not achieved satisfactory results. Yet, that has not deterred us from highlighting and reporting any violations against children. We continue to lodge complaints to the competent authorities in order to expose these violations and hold the perpetrators accountable. In most cases, we demand a mitigated sentence in case the court refuses to release the child on bail.

Know Your Rights Campaign

DCI-Palestine launched a "Know Your Rights" campaign for Palestinian children. The campaign focuses on empowering and educating Palestinian children to secure their basic rights while detained in the Israeli military detention system.

DCI-Palestine conducted training sessions for Palestinian children in schools to raise awareness about the detention and interrogation practices, relevant international human rights law concerning arrest, and to highlight the importance of contacting a lawyer before going to the DCO offices when summoned.

During 2014, 104 training sessions were conducted to children in schools between ages 12-17. In total 4549 children were targeted in these training sessions. An easy to remember telephone number is given to children to contact DCI-Palestine lawyers 24/7 when allowed access to a telephone by Israeli authorities.

Advocacy Unit:

Evidence-based advocacy initiatives in order to expose and change policies and practices harmful to Palestinian children are implemented.

DCI's advocacy initiatives in 2014 took many forms including speaking tours, participating and presenting at international conferences, testifying before UN Independent Commission of Inquiry and many others, publishing reports and videos, and conducting advocacy and outreach campaigns. The initiatives focused on exposing Israeli violations to children's rights; including the right to life during the last war on Gaza, exposing Israel's use of live ammunition against children and settler violence across the West Bank, in addition to exposing violations against children in Israeli Military detention and solitary confinement.

Violence in Gaza

According to DCI-Palestine's research, at least 547 children lost their lives in the 50-day military offensive, dubbed Operation Protective Edge, that saw vast swathes of the Gaza Strip flattened. The children who died made up a fifth of Palestinians who were killed during the conflict. Many more thousands of children were wounded, with approximately 1,000 sustaining permanent disabilities.

The high number of child and civilian fatalities raised critical questions about the disproportionate use of force by the Israeli military, and the illegal targeting of locations protected under international law such as schools, hospitals and shelters. Top UN human rights official Navi Pillay stated publicly that war crimes may have been committed by Israeli forces.

DCI-Palestine documentation also uncovered one instance in which the Israeli military used a Palestinian child as a human shield. This case involved a 16-year-old boy who was detained for five days, physically assaulted, and made to search for tunnels inside the Gaza Strip.

Though the media focused on the violence throughout the conflict, fatalities and injuries were being recorded even before the start of Operation Protective Edge. Before the conflict began, three children lost their lives as a result of Israeli gunfire or airstrikes, while at least 43 were injured in similar circumstances.

Since the end of the offensive reconstruction has been limited, despite the easing of the blockade being a key factor in reaching a ceasefire agreement. Children displaced during the conflict have remained in shelters into the winter season, which brought with it widespread flooding across the Strip.





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Campaign Supporting UN Commission of Inquiry

In October, Defense for Children International Palestine called on its supporters to raise their voices and collectively demand support for a UN inquiry investigating war crimes during the assault.

In December, we delivered 17,286 signatures to the White House and Downing Street calling on the US and UK governments to support the United Nations Commission of Inquiry into possible war crimes committed in Gaza.

We sent a clear message to President Barack Obama and Prime Minister David Cameron: We demand justice and accountability for the children killed in the 2014 Israeli military offensive on the Gaza Strip. The enormous support for the campaign – the first of its kind for DCI-Palestine – is an integral step to growing a movement demanding freedom, dignity, and justice for Palestinian children.

See: <http://dcipalestine.nationbuilder.com/justiceforgaza>.

Assisting the UN Commission of Inquiry

DCI- Palestine’s accountability program director testified before the UN Independent Commission of Inquiry in Amman on November 11. DCI-Palestine provided the Commission with case summaries of children who were killed in the West Bank during the mandate of the Commission as well as summaries of the cases of children who were ill treated and tortured. DCI-Palestine is working closely with the Commission to assist the Commission to interview witnesses of violations to children’s rights.

Testifying at the Russell Tribunal on Palestine extraordinary session on Gaza

DCI-Palestine’s advocacy unit coordinator testified at the extraordinary session of the Russell Tribunal on the use of a 16-year-old Palestinian as a human shield by the Israeli army during Operation Protective Edge in Gaza.

Learn more: <http://www.russelltribunalonpalestine.com/en/sessions/extraordinary-session-brussels>.

Participating in the Global Network for Rights and Development conference “Children in Conflict” at the European Parliament

DCI-Palestine advocacy officer presented on the loss and trauma experienced by Gaza children during Israel’s assault this summer.

Learn more: <http://gnrd.net/seemore.php?id=1032>

Live ammunition and deaths across the West Bank

At least 11 Palestinian children in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, lost their lives in 2014 after being shot with live ammunition by Israeli occupation forces. Live ammunition, according to the Israeli military's own regulations, must only be used in circumstances in which a direct, mortal threat is posed to a soldier. DCI-Palestine, to date, has found no evidence that suggests that the children killed in 2014 were posing such a threat at the time of their shooting.

In May, two teenagers, Nadeem Nawara and Mohammad Salameh Abu Daher, were fatally shot with live ammunition. Footage of the event clearly indicated that both boys were unarmed at the moment that they were shot during a lull in the protest. In the aftermath, Israeli officials first disputed the legitimacy of the video evidence, and then categorically denied that live fire was used during the protest: weeks later, it was proven that both teens were killed by live bullets.

In an unusual move by Israeli authorities, a border policeman has been charged with manslaughter for the killing of Nadeem. For the other children who died in 2014, however, justice remains unlikely: no soldiers or border policemen have been charged with their deaths.

Releasing CCTV Footage of Unlawful Killings

On May 19, DCI-Palestine obtained footage from four CCTV cameras. The footage documented a six hour period that captured the fatal shootings of Nadeem Nawara and Mohammad Abu Daher, on May 15, 2014.

The footage was filmed on eight security cameras mounted on all sides of a building next to the scene where the shooting occurred. Four cameras from three sides of the building show the relevant angles. These cover the street where protesters were gathered and the two locations in which Israeli soldiers were stationed: a first group in the parking lot of Ofer military prison, and the second in a raised area on the same side of the street as the protesters.

DCI-Palestine's released a video on YouTube that highlights the unlawful killings that occurred on May 15. The video garnered 724,000 views.

See: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CaibEqx2m_k.

Collaborating with Forensic Architecture

DCI-Palestine commissioned Forensic Architecture, a research agency that provides spatial and media analysis, to investigate the video footage that captured the fatal shootings of Nadeem Nawara, and Mohammad Abu Daher. A team of architects, video, and audio specialists analyzed the CCTV footage from the four security cameras along with CNN released footage from the same incident to identify Nawara's shooter.

Read more: <http://beitunia.forensic-architecture.org>.

«Here Lies My Brother» Video Release

DCI-Palestine produced a short film “Here Lies My Brother” on Mohammad Abu Daher's murder in attempts to provide a glimpse beyond the headlines to see the impact prolonged military occupation has on Palestinian families.

See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YGo4Z7-Pmbo>.

No More Forgotten Lives Campaign

On December 18, DCI-Palestine launched the «No More Forgotten Lives» campaign to demand justice for the killings of Mohammad and Nadeem and the other 9 children killed by Israeli forces with live ammunition in the occupied West Bank in 2014. The campaign aims to challenge the climate of impunity that allows Israeli soldiers to kill children without fear of reprisal.

The multimedia and social media campaign will continue throughout 2015. So far, 670 people have taken part in the first action of the campaign on Thunderclap.

Learn more: <http://www.nomoreforgottenlives.com>.



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Military detention, solitary confinement

Military detention is a reality for hundreds of Palestinian children each year, exposing them to physical and psychological violence, interrupting education, contributing to mental health issues, and placing large numbers of families under stress. This continued to be the case in 2014.

This year, the average number of children held in Israeli military detention stood at 197 per month, largely unchanged from the 2013 figure of 199 per month. This stable figure, however, masks the undercurrent of change taking place within the system, with a clampdown on Palestinian youth becoming apparent in the second half of 2014. In September, a new military order, involving the interrogation of children in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, appeared to safeguard children's rights. On closer inspection, however, it became clear that children arrested for throwing stones - that is, the majority of children entangled in the Israeli military court system - would not be protected by the new law.

As a backdrop to these developments, the use of solitary confinement as a means of coercing confessions, and the arbitrary use of house arrest, continued to prevent Palestinian children from enjoying their rights as enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Release of Solitary Confinement Report

In May, DCI-Palestine, submitted the report "Solitary confinement for Palestinian children in Israeli military detention" to the following UN groups, revealing the rise in numbers of Palestinian children subjected to solitary confinement for interrogation purposes in Israeli detention

- UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967
- UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
- UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children;
- UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children in Armed Conflict;
- UN Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers;
- UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention; and
- UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

Learn more:

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/solitaryconfinement/palestinianchildprisoners/prweb11832016.htm>.

Supporting Chicago Faith Coalition campaign «Israeli Military Detention - No Way to Treat a Child»

DCI-Palestine supported the Chicago Faith Coalition campaign «Israeli Military Detention - No Way to Treat a Child,» which demands Israeli end military detention. Brad Parker, international advocacy officer and attorney, provided a thorough grounding on all the child detention issues and helped them with messaging and counter responses. DCI-Palestine also provided content, including videos, features, and reports.

Coalition partners include American Friends Service Committee, Friends of Sabeel North America, Arab-Jewish Partnership, Jewish Voice for Peace-Chicago, Christian Peacemaker Team, and American Muslims for Palestine.

Learn more: <http://www.chicagofaithcoalition.org/>.

National Lawyers Guild delegation to Palestine

DCI-Palestine coordinated a full-day tour examining the issue of Palestinian child prisoners on May 24 for US-based attorneys participating in the National Lawyers Guild delegation to Palestine. The delegation released the report «Prisoners of Injustice» in December, which summarizes their findings on the conditions and situation of Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli jails.

Read the full report:

<http://www.nlginternational.org/report/PrisonersOfInjustice-Report.pdf>.

Leiden University

On November 18-19, DCI-Palestine International Advocacy Officer and Attorney was invited to present on Israeli military courts and ill treatment of Palestinian children in Israeli military detention at the international legal conference “25 Years CRC” in the Netherlands. The presentation also included a discussion of key obstacles to implementation efforts in the OPT and efforts needed to accelerate and promote the prevention and elimination of violence within the Israeli military court system.

Learn more: <http://law.leiden.edu/organisation/private-law/child-law/25yearsarc/>

Settler Violence

Settlers - Israelis who live in the West Bank in settlements that are deemed illegal under international law - have long been attacking Palestinians, including children. In June 2014, DCI-Palestine published a report, «Growing up between Israeli settlements and soldiers,» detailing incidents of settler attacks that took place in 2013, including attacks on children as they made their way to school and on school buildings during classes.

The report noted the implicit cooperation of soldiers in settler attacks, including cases in which soldiers either ignored overt attacks or even participated in the violence.

Documenting settler violence, DCI-Palestine found that 129 instances of settler attacks against children were recorded between 2008 and 2012. The announcement in October of a further 1,000 new settler homes across East Jerusalem will likely expose Palestinian children to further violence, as the number of Israeli settlers living in the Occupied Palestinian Territory continues to swell.

AlterNet published the report as a three-part series that allowed it to reach a much wider audience.

See:

<http://www.alternet.org/world/price-tag-attacks-high-cost-palestinian-children-face-living-near-settlers>.

Read the full report:

<http://issuu.com/dcips/docs/settlerviolencereport.19june201?e=12369226/8307628>

Speaking Tours

Just as important as building a movement online is building a movement on the ground. To that end, DCI-Palestine participated in speaking tours in the UK and US.

UK Speaking Tour with War on Want

March 21 – 28 – DCI-Palestine Accountability Program director and Advocacy Unit Coordinator participated in War on Want’s annual conference, The New Frontlines of War, March 22, 2014, and spoke to hundreds of people of all ages and backgrounds about Palestinian children in Israeli military detention and excessive use of force by Israeli soldiers against children during demonstrations.

Learn more: <http://www.waronwant.org/news/events/previous-events/18110-frontlines-conference-and-tour>.

US Speaking Tour with Tree of Life

DCI-Palestine Advocacy Unit Coordinator participated as a key speaker in a series of conferences in USA during October to speak about Palestinian children in Israeli military detention, and Israel’s assault on the Gaza Strip over the summer. The conferences were organized by the Tree of Life Educational Fund in partnership with Friends of Sabeel–North America and Kairos USA, .

Learn more: <http://www.tolef.org/2014-tree-of-life-conferences/>.



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US Advocacy and Outreach

US Congressional Briefing

DCI-Palestine International Advocacy Officer and Attorney participated as a panelist at a Congressional briefing in Washington, DC on August 1, 2014 to speak about the widespread and systematic ill treatment and torture of Palestinian children in Israeli military detention, and the Israeli military court framework.

The briefing featured Tariq Abu Khdeir, a Palestinian-American teenager viciously beaten by Israeli police in July 2014 and was attended by least 47 Congressional offices. The briefing was organized by US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation, DCI-Palestine, and Amnesty International.

To watch the video, go to: <http://www.c-span.org/video/?320809-1/discussion-israelipalestinian-conflict>

Learn more: <http://www.endtheoccupation.org/article.php?id=4125>

No Way to Treat a Child Campaign

During 2014, DCI-Palestine worked with American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and other partners based in Chicago to develop a campaign focused on raising awareness on widespread and systematic ill treatment and torture that Palestinian children encounter in the Israeli military detention system. The campaign was officially launched in Chicago in November 2014. In September 2014, DCI-Palestine International Advocacy Officer and Attorney conducted a workshop with AFSC staff at the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation National Organizers conference in San Diego, California. The workshop focused on providing Palestinian rights advocates with knowledge and tools to replicate the “No Way to Treat a Child” campaign for their local context.

Learn more: <http://www.chicagofaithcoalition.org/contentPages/no-way-to-treat-a-child/project-overview.html>

Outreach to US-based Local Organizations and Student Groups

During 2014, DCI-Palestine conducted outreach and participated in public events with a number of local organizations and student groups focused on Palestinian rights. In March, DCI-Palestine International Advocacy Officer and Attorney participated in a panel event at Georgetown University in Washington, DC focused on the challenges faced today by Palestinian children living under Israeli occupation. In November, he was a panelist as part of the Witness Palestine Film Series in Rochester, NY, and conducted briefings with several student groups during 2014.

Learn more: <http://ccas.georgetown.edu/pastevents/palestinianchildren>

Watch the presentation: <http://vimeo.com/90365519>

Learn more: http://www.witnesspalestinerochester.org/2014/stone_cold_justice.htm



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UN Advocacy

Committee on Inalienable Rights of Palestinian People

In February 2014, DCI-Palestine International Advocacy Officer and Attorney briefed the Working Group of the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People on the widespread and systematic ill treatment and torture of Palestinian children in the Israeli military detention system. The committee is composed of 26 UN member states while an additional 21 member states are observers.

Learn more: <http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/otherevents.htm>

Watch the briefing: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5yTkaGpgkEU>

UN Human Rights Council

During 2014, the Advocacy Unit engaged regularly with the UN Human Rights Council (HRC). In March 2014, DCI-Palestine International Advocacy Officer and Attorney attended the 25th Regular Session of the HRC, and participated in the Council's Annual Day on the Rights of the Child.

The Advocacy Unit submitted oral and written statements to each of the three HRC regular sessions during 2014. The statements focused on solitary confinement used solely for interrogation purposes against Palestinian children in Israeli military detention, the case of two Palestinian boys fatally shot by live ammunition fired by Israeli forces on May 15, and the impact of Israel's Operation Protective Edge on Palestinian children in Gaza.

In July, DCI-Palestine coordinated a joint written statement to the HRC during a special session on the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. During this special session, the HRC voted to create the Independent Commission of Inquiry on the 2014 Gaza Conflict.

Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict

During 2014, DCI-Palestine's Advocacy Unit maintained regular communication with the UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict (OSRSG-CAAC). In addition to regularly sharing information and documentation collected by DCI-Palestine staff in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, DCI-Palestine International Advocacy Officer and Attorney participated in a roundtable discussion with Ms. Leila Zerrougui, the current Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict, in Geneva during March to discuss efforts to prevent and protect children from being recruited into armed groups. In July, during Israel's military offensive on the Gaza Strip known as Operation Protective Edge, Parker was invited to brief the OSRSG-CAAC in New York on the impact of the military offensive on Palestinian children living in the Gaza Strip.

UN Human Rights Committee

In October 2014, DCI-Palestine International Advocacy Officer and Attorney attended the UN Human Rights Committee's 112th Session in Geneva. He presented testimony to the Committee, and attended the review where Israel was questioned on its systematic and widespread ill treatment of Palestinian child detainees.

Learn more: <http://dci-palestine.org/documents/dci-palestine-participates-un-human-rights-review-israel>

November Expert Consultation SR Torture

DCI-Palestine International Advocacy Officer and Attorney Brad Parker was one of thirty experts to brief Juan Mendez, the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, on November 10-11, 2014 at an expert consultation at American University's Washington College of Law in Washington, DC. The consultation brought together experts to discuss topics related to the torture and ill-treatment of juveniles deprived of their liberty. Parker discussed the use of solitary confinement for Palestinian children solely for interrogation purposes, and systemic and legal obstacles in working to enforce the international law prohibition on torture and ill-treatment in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Learn more: <http://antitorture.org/latest-news/page/2/>

Content Generation:

Listed below is a sample of the top features produced in 2014.

Youth conviction: Palestinian children describe solitary confinement in Israeli military prisons

<http://dci-palestine.org/documents/youth-conviction-palestinian-children-describe-solitary-confinement-israeli-military>

Child house arrests rise in Jerusalem clampdown

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

For Gaza's children, 'safety' is just a word

<http://dci-palestine.org/documents/gazas-children-safety-just-word>

Handful of Gaza children evacuated to Jerusalem for treatment

<http://dci-palestine.org/documents/handful-gaza-children-evacuated-jerusalem-treatment>

Azzun's kidnapped youth - Across the West Bank and Gaza, children have a different "normal"

<http://dci-palestine.org/documents/azzun%E2%80%99s-kidnapped-youth-across-west-bank-and-gaza-children-have-different-%E2%80%9Cnormal%E2%80%9D>

Despite UN calls, no justice for children living near Israeli settlements

<http://dci-palestine.org/documents/despite-un-calls-no-justice-children-living-near-israeli-settlements>

(Originally published on AlterNet)

Palestinian schoolchildren terrorized by settler vigilantes, soldiers

<http://dci-palestine.org/documents/palestinian-schoolchildren-terrorized-settler-vigilantes-soldiers>

(Originally published on AlterNet)

"Price-tag" attacks: High cost for Palestinian children living near settlers

<http://dci-palestine.org/documents/%E2%80%9Cprice-tag%E2%80%9D-attacks-high-cost-palestinian-children-living-near-settlers>

(Originally published on AlterNet)

Unsuspecting Victims of Israel's 'Non-Lethal' Weapons

<http://dci-palestine.org/documents/unsuspecting-victims-israels-non-lethal-weapons>

(Published originally on The Huffington Post)



Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Directors of Defence for Children International-Palestine Section (DCI/PS)

Report on the financial statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Defence for Children International-Palestine Section (hereinafter "DCI/PS") which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2014, the statement of activities and changes in net assets, and statement of cash flows for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's responsibility for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs), and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those Standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of DCI/PS as of December 31, 2014, the results of its activities and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

Other matters

The Financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2013 were audited by another auditor whose report, dated March 27, 2014, expressed an unmodified opinion on those statements.

PricewaterhouseCoopers Palestine Limited

March 31, 2015
Ramallah, Palestine

DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL – DCI/PS

Financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2014

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

(All amounts in U.S Dollars)

| | Note | 2014 | 2013 Restated note (15) | January 1, 2013 Restated note (15) |
|--|------|------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| ASSETS | | | | |
| Non-current assets | | | | |
| Property, plant and equipment | (4) | 291,084 | 246,744 | 261,345 |
| Assets as limited to use | (7) | 402,298 | 468,842 | 333,567 |
| Total non-current assets | | 693,382 | 715,586 | 594,912 |
| Current assets | | | | |
| Contributions receivable | (5) | 671,957 | 671,609 | 1,109,482 |
| Other current assets | (6) | 32,303 | 5,324 | 4,426 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | (7) | 398,377 | 188,804 | 223,720 |
| Total current assets | | 1,102,637 | 865,737 | 1,337,628 |
| Total assets | | 1,796,019 | 1,581,323 | 1,932,540 |
| NET ASSETS AND LIABILITIES | | | | |
| Net assets | | | | |
| Unrestricted net assets | | 306,057 | 226,161 | 225,114 |
| Sustainability reserve | (8) | 195,393 | 134,701 | 111,267 |
| Total net assets | | 501,450 | 360,862 | 336,381 |
| Non-current liabilities | | | | |
| Term loan | (9) | - | - | 11,220 |
| Provision for employees' indemnity | (10) | 451,728 | 481,487 | 397,958 |
| Total non-current liabilities | | 451,728 | 481,487 | 409,178 |
| Current liabilities | | | | |
| Current portion of term loan | (9) | - | 11,220 | 15,648 |
| Accounts payable and other current liabilities | (11) | 49,907 | 25,043 | 20,111 |
| Temporarily restricted contributions | (12) | 792,934 | 702,711 | 1,151,222 |
| Total current liabilities | | 842,841 | 738,974 | 1,186,981 |
| Total liabilities | | 1,294,569 | 1,220,461 | 1,596,159 |
| Total net assets and liabilities | | 1,796,019 | 1,581,323 | 1,932,540 |

- The notes on pages 6 to 17 form an integral part of these financial statements.

- The financial statements on pages 3 to 17 were authorized for issue by the Board of Directors on March 30, 2015 and were signed on its behalf.

Sana Anfous
Finance Manager

Fatima Dana /Nazzal
Treasurer

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
 (All amounts in U.S Dollars)

| | <u>Note</u> | <u>2014</u> | <u>2013 Restated note (15)</u> |
|--|-------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <u>Contributions, revenues and gains</u> | | | |
| Temporarily restricted contributions released from restriction | (12) | 1,316,246 | 1,032,948 |
| Unrestricted contributions | | 51,425 | 12,561 |
| Other revenues | | 9,267 | 12,622 |
| Currency exchange gain | | 28,834 | - |
| Total contributions, revenues and gains | | <u>1,405,772</u> | <u>1,058,131</u> |
| <u>Expenses</u> | | | |
| Administrative and core-program costs | (13) | 658,279 | 617,338 |
| Projects' expenses | (13) | 585,511 | 380,137 |
| Depreciation | (4) | 16,669 | 33,323 |
| Finance costs | | 236 | 1,103 |
| Currency exchange loss | | - | 1,749 |
| Write off of contributions receivable | (5) | 4,489 | - |
| Total expenses | | <u>1,265,184</u> | <u>1,033,650</u> |
| Changes in net assets for the year | | 140,588 | 24,481 |
| Net assets, beginning of year before restatement | | 360,862 | 185,274 |
| Restatement (note 15) | | - | 151,107 |
| Net assets, beginning of year as restated | | <u>360,862</u> | <u>336,381</u> |
| Net assets, end of the year | | <u>501,450</u> | <u>360,862</u> |

- The notes on pages from 6 to 17 form an integral part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

(All amounts in U.S Dollars)

| | Note | 2014 | 2013 Restated note (14) |
|---|-------------|-----------------------|--|
| <u>Cash flows from operating activities</u> | | | |
| Changes in net assets for the year | | 140,588 | 24,481 |
| Adjustments of non-cash items: | | | |
| Depreciation | (4) | 16,669 | 33,323 |
| Finance costs | | 236 | 1,103 |
| Provision for employees' indemnity | (10) | 125,770 | 153,227 |
| | | <u>283,263</u> | <u>212,134</u> |
| <i>Adjustments to reconcile changes in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:</i> | | | |
| Assets as limited to use | | 66,544 | (135,275) |
| Contributions receivable | (5) | (348) | 437,873 |
| Other current assets | (6) | (26,979) | (898) |
| Accounts payable and other current liabilities | (11) | 24,864 | 4,932 |
| Temporarily restricted contributions | (12) | 90,223 | (448,511) |
| Employees' indemnity paid | (10) | (155,529) | (69,698) |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | | <u>282,038</u> | <u>557</u> |
| <u>Cash flows from investing activities</u> | | | |
| Purchase of property, plant and equipment | (4) | (61,009) | (18,722) |
| Net cash used in investing activities | | <u>(61,009)</u> | <u>(18,722)</u> |
| <u>Cash flows from financing activities</u> | | | |
| Settlement of term loan | (9) | (11,220) | (15,648) |
| Finance costs paid | | (236) | (1,103) |
| Net cash used in financing activities | | <u>(11,456)</u> | <u>(16,751)</u> |
| Change in cash and cash equivalents | | 209,573 | (34,916) |
| Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of the year | | 188,804 | 223,720 |
| Cash and cash equivalents, end of the year | | <u>398,377</u> | <u>188,804</u> |

- The notes on pages from 6 to 17 form an integral part of these financial statement