

## Safeguard the Rights of Palestinian Children

**Resolved,** That the 135th Annual Meeting of the Episcopal Church in Western Oregon actively support General Convention Resolution 2018-C038 which calls on the State of Israel to guarantee basic human rights and exercise a necessary prohibition against torture and ill-treatment of detained children (defined as persons under 18 years old). Thereby noting that among the practices in Israel's military detention system that require change are, including but not limited to, the use of nighttime arrests in the child's home, physical and verbal abuse, blindfolds and restraints, strip searches, solitary confinement, coerced false confessions which are most often written in Hebrew, which is not their native language. This separation of detained children from their parents and legal counselors including the transfer of Palestinian children to prisons within the State of Israel that their parents are not permitted to visit is against international law; *and be it further*

**Resolved,** That this practice extends to the overall traumatic experience that the child and their family are forced to endure due to night invasion, arrest and detention, separation from family, the Israeli military court system and the home detention that continues months beyond the child's release from military detention is in violation of international humanitarian law; *and be it further*

**Resolved,** That as a diocese and individually we learn more through organizations such as No Way To Treat A Child and Defense of Children International - Palestine and that we seek ways to challenge Israel's widespread and systematic ill-treatment of Palestinian children in the Israeli military detention system.

**Submitted by:** The Task Force For Palestinian Human Rights  
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### **Explanation:**

Each year the Israeli military detains and prosecutes between 500 to 700 Palestinian children. Statistics from studies done by Defense of Children International - Palestine show children are arrested on suspicion without a warrant, three quarters of them endure some form of physical violence following arrest, 97 percent have no parent present during interrogation and they are not properly informed of their rights. All are subject to Israeli military law that denies basic and fair trial protection and are prosecuted in Hebrew in an Israeli military court - not a civil court. This whole adverse experience creates an enduring Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in the affected child and their families which breaks down the fabric of the family and the targeted Palestinian society.