

STORY ABOUT A BOY

This story is about Kareem—it is also the story of most of the 500-700 Palestinian children detained every year by the Israeli military.

Name: Kareem H, 13
 Date detained: May 16, 2017
 Location: Azzun, Qalqilya
 Allegation: Throwing stones
 Sentence: Two months, three days

At approximately 2:30 a.m. on May 16, 2017, Israeli soldiers entered the home of Kareem H. His brother woke him up and soldiers took him from the home, pushing and verbally insulting him. He was not told why he was being detained and the soldiers did not present an arrest warrant.

Israeli soldiers tied Kareem’s hands behind his back, blindfolded him, and forced him to run to the entrance of the village. The soldiers punched and kicked him. Kareem was taken to a nearby military tower and forced to sit on the ground for over an hour before being transferred to a police station in the Jewish-only settlement of Ariel for interrogation. Soldiers beat him during transfer, which lasted at least two hours.

The interrogator did not inform Kareem of his rights and interrogated him without the presence of a lawyer or family member. Kareem spoke with a lawyer over the phone prior to interrogation but did not understand what the lawyer told him. The interrogator accused Kareem of throwing stones. He confessed and was signed a statement drafted in Hebrew.

Kareem was transferred bound and blindfolded to Huwwara detention center south of the West Bank city of Nablus. He was strip searched upon arrival. He told DCIP: “I was naked and felt very humiliated.”

After being shackled, moved to several detention centers and strip-searched, he was interrogated at Ariel settlement police station. The interrogator accused him of throwing stones and threatened to put him in prison for a long period of time.

Kareem told DCIP: “He was shouting, and I was so scared that I confessed to throwing stones.”

Kareem appeared in Salem military court five additional times. An indictment was submitted against him on May 29, and his detention was extended until July 4.

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PALESTINIAN CHILDREN IN ISRAELI MILITARY DETENTION

Types of ill-treatment by Israeli forces 2012–2016

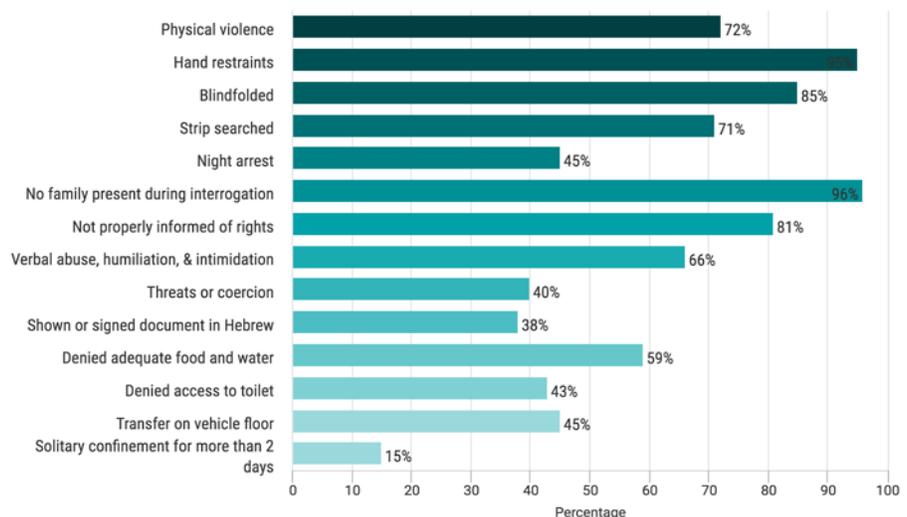
- 72 percent experience physical violence
- 95 percent were hand tied
- 85 percent were blindfolded
- 96 percent were interrogated

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Source: Defense for Children International - Palestine
 AHMAD GHARABLI AFP

Ill-treatment of Palestinian child detainees by Israeli forces

Israel prosecutes between 500 and 700 Palestinian children in a military court system each year that lacks basic fair trial guarantees and is notorious for widespread, systematic, and institutionalized ill-treatment of Palestinian child detainees. Defense for Children International - Palestine (DCIP) collected 590 sworn affidavits from Palestinian children detained by Israeli forces from the occupied West Bank between 2012 and 2016. The data below shows the types of ill-treatment reported by these children.



Source: Defense for Children International - Palestine (DCIP)