



A joint project of
Defense for Children International – Palestine
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H.R. 2407 and Palestinian children in Israeli military detention

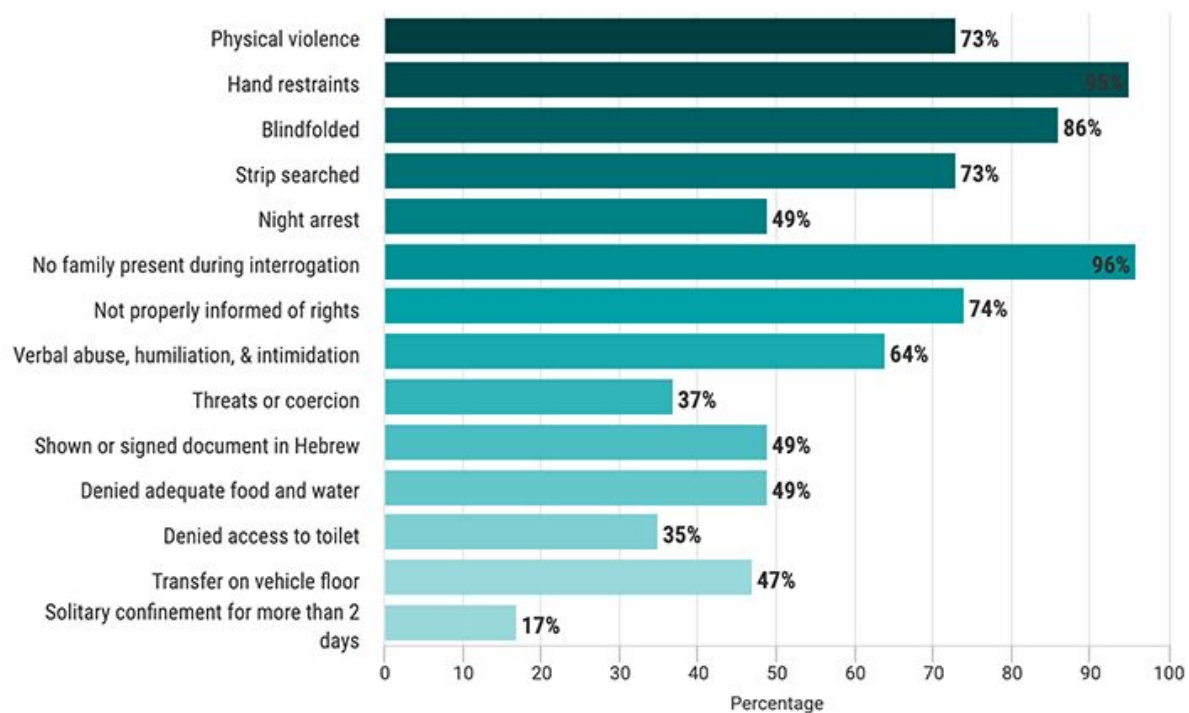
- H.R. 2407 is the second piece of legislation introduced by Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN-04) highlighting ill-treatment against Palestinian children by Israeli forces.
 - The groundbreaking legislation **H.R. 4391** or the “[Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children Act](#)” was introduced on November 14, 2017 and garnered support from a total of **31 members of Congress** by the end of the 115th Congress.
 - Children make up around **45 percent of the 2.9 million Palestinians** living in the occupied West Bank, all of whom live under a **separate and unequal** Israeli military law framework.
 - **Regardless of guilt or innocence** or the gravity of an alleged offense, children in conflict with the law are **entitled to special protections** and **all due process rights** under international human rights law and international humanitarian law.
 - Ill-treatment is **widespread and institutionalized** in the Israeli military detention system, and the Israeli military court system has been found to **lack basic fair trial protections** and guarantees.
 - Since 2000, at least **10,000 Palestinian children** have been detained by Israeli forces from the occupied West Bank and held in Israeli military detention.
 - Children often give confessions after **verbal abuse, threats, physical and psychological violence** that in some cases amounts to torture.
 - Nearly **three out of four** Palestinian children experience some form of **physical violence** after arrest.
 - Palestinian child detainees have **no right to an attorney during interrogation** under Israeli military law, and **96 percent** of children have **no parent present** during interrogation.
 - U.S. financial assistance to Israel that is used to support ill-treatment of Palestinian child detainees **violates existing U.S. law**, specifically the “Leahy laws,” and also aids Israeli violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.
 - H.R. 2407 seeks to **promote justice, equality and human rights for children globally** by prohibiting any U.S. foreign military aid from supporting “the military detention, interrogation, abuse, or ill-treatment of children in violation of international humanitarian law.”
 - The bill amends Section 620M of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2378d), commonly known as the “Leahy Law,” by adding a new subsection that includes a **generally applicable limitation prohibiting U.S. military aid** from being used by foreign armed forces to support the **military detention, interrogation, abuse, or ill-treatment** of children in violation of international humanitarian law.
 - The obligation is on U.S. actors to **ensure no taxpayer funds further these practices**. Israeli authorities are free to continue using torture and the other prohibited practices listed in H.R. 2407.
- » For more information, go to www.nowaytotreatachild.org or www.dci-palestine.org.

The No Way to Treat a Child campaign seeks to challenge and end Israel’s military occupation of Palestinians by exposing widespread and systematic ill-treatment of Palestinian children in the Israeli military detention system. It is a project of [Defense for Children International - Palestine](#) and the [American Friends Service Committee](#).

Learn more at: www.nowaytotreatachild.org | www.dci-palestine.org | www.afsc.org

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 739 sworn affidavits from Palestinian children detained by Israeli forces from the occupied West Bank between 2013 and 2018. The data below shows the types of ill-treatment reported by these children.



Source: Defense for Children International - Palestine (DCIP)