



~bay area women in black~

Jewish Voice  
for Peace

קול יהודי לשלום

## STOLEN LAND, STOLEN CHILDHOOD



**PAID FOR WITH  
OUR TAX  
DOLLARS!**

**\$3 BILLION EVERY  
YEAR IN U.S.  
MILITARY AID TO  
ISRAEL**

Each year in the West Bank about 700 Palestinian children, aged 12-17, are arrested, detained, and prosecuted in Israeli military courts. [*Statistics from Defence of Children International-Palestine Section and B'Tselem, Israel's Human rights Organization*]. About 350 children are currently imprisoned in Israeli jails, often held without legal defense or trial. The most common reason given for the arrest is "stone-throwing", which can bring a 20-year sentence. Many of these children are beaten, deprived of sleep, forced to remain in contorted positions for long periods, and held in solitary confinement; their treatment is considered to be torture under international law, and violates the U.N. Convention of the Rights of the Child.

**How are Detained Palestinian Children Treated Differently from Jewish Children in the West Bank?** Jewish children living in illegal settlements in the West Bank are protected by Israeli civilian law. They cannot be tried as adults until age 18, in accordance with international law. If they are arrested they cannot be detained for longer than 12 hours. Palestinian children are subject to Israeli military law, administered by soldiers who hold absolute control over their lives and the lives of their parents. They can be detained indefinitely from as young as 12 years old.

**How are Jewish Settlements, Nonviolent Resistance, and Arrests of Palestinian Children Related?** A primary goal of Israeli policy is to confiscate increasing amounts of occupied West Bank land for Jewish settlement. To make way for the illegal settlements, Palestinians are forcibly removed from their homes, orchards, and farms.

In villages engaged in nonviolent protests against theft of their land, the children become targets for arrest by the Israeli military. They are held as "bargaining chips" to pressure the population to cease their resistance. Parents are prevented from visiting their children in prison, and the military demands payment of large fines as a condition of release. The terrified children are more easily coerced into signing false confessions implicating others and to "collaborate" as the price of returning to their families.

Currently, over half a million Jewish Israelis are living in settlements in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. These settlements, together with the Jewish-only roads and infrastructure that accommodate them, control about 42% of West Bank land. Over 80% of the water from the aquifer in the West Bank is taken by Israel for its own citizens.

### **What You Can Do to Help These Children**



- **Contribute to their legal defense through Defence of Children International – Palestine Section [www.dci-pal.org](http://www.dci-pal.org)**
- **Tell Barbara Lee no more of our tax dollars to support the Israeli occupation; use that money to provide tax-starved Oakland with decent schools and social services.**
- **Educate yourself about what is really happening in Israel-Palestine. For on-the-ground reports, go to [www.theonlydemocracy.org](http://www.theonlydemocracy.org)**

**JOIN US at the Bay Area Women in Black vigils every Saturday from 12-1pm at the Oakland Farmers Market ([www.bawib.org](http://www.bawib.org)), and come to our next JVP Bay Area Community meeting ([www.bayarea.jvp.org](http://www.bayarea.jvp.org)).**