



Andrew Wilkie MP
INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR DENISON

2 FEB 2018

The Hon Julie Bishop MP
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

Julie

I write on behalf of a constituent who is deeply concerned about the treatment of Palestinian minors by Israeli authorities.

It has been reported that each year approximately 500-700 Palestinian children, some as young as 12, are arrested and prosecuted within the Israeli Military Court System. I am told the Palestinian minors, commonly arrested on trivial charges such as stone-throwing, are subject to systematic and widespread human rights violations by Israeli forces. I understand these violations include extensive administrative detention without charge or trial and the excessive use of force and coercion during interrogation. According to international agencies, three out of every four Palestinian children experienced physical violence during their arrest and detainment. Additionally, United Nations Children's Emergency Fund data from 2015 reported children were often strip-searched and held in solitary confinement.

I share my constituent's concerns. It is well understood that a traumatic experience, such as arrest, interrogation and imprisonment, can be detrimental to a child's physical and emotional health.

I urge the Australian government to put whatever pressure it can on the Israeli authorities to guarantee that Palestinian children are protected from discrimination and ill-treatment.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Wilkie MP
Independent Member for Denison