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Week 14: Minors in Military Courts

WEEK
14

APR. 2
TO
APR. 8

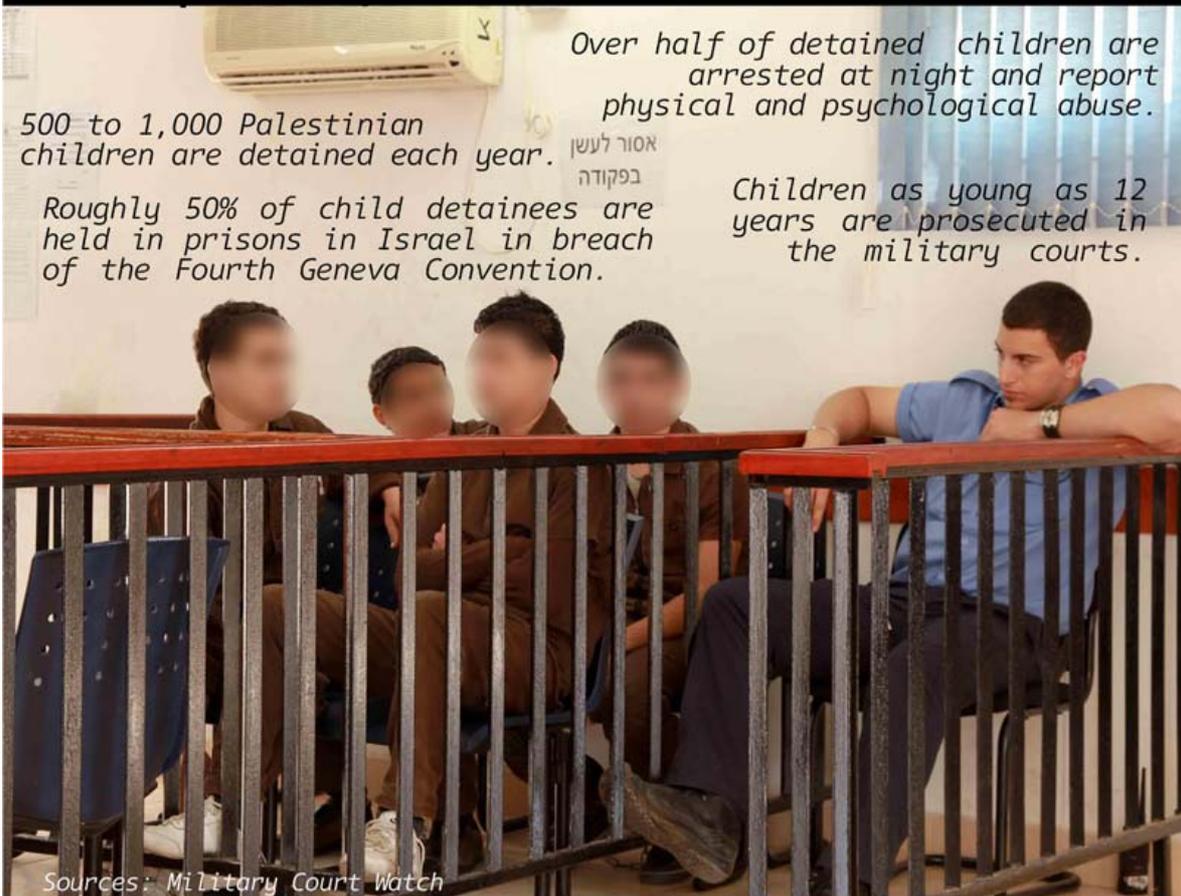
MINORS IN MILITARY COURTS

500 to 1,000 Palestinian children are detained each year.

Roughly 50% of child detainees are held in prisons in Israel in breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Over half of detained children are arrested at night and report physical and psychological abuse.

Children as young as 12 years are prosecuted in the military courts.



Sources: *Military Court Watch*

<http://kuminow.com/MinorsinMilitaryCourts>

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Dear Kumi Now supporter,

We find ourselves in April in the Kumi Now calendar, and here in Palestinian and Israel it is definitely spring. But as excited as we are about the change in season, we're even more excited to announce our guest for Tuesday's webinar. Read on to learn more!

Next Online Gathering



April 5: Palestinian Innovators #5

[Read more information on the event here.](#)

Please note that Palestine and Israel and other countries have now jumped forward an hour. Please see the times below...

Dr. Lily Habash served in many advisory positions in the Palestinian Authority from 1994 to 2009. Since 2009, she's worked in several senior positions for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). She has been very active in Palestinian civil society and has played a crucial role in founding and running numerous Palestinian NGOs.

Time: Tuesday, April 5, at 6:00pm East Jerusalem, Palestine time (UTC+3). That's...

- Pacific (Seattle/Vancouver): 8am
- Central (Chicago): 10am
- Eastern (New York/Toronto): 11pm
- Atlantic: 12pm
- Newfoundland: 12:30pm
- Greenwich (London): 4pm
- Central Europe (Paris/Stockholm): 5pm
- South Africa: 5pm
- Manila: 11pm
- Sydney: 1am (+1 Day)
- Auckland: 3am (+1 Day)

Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/94679502800> (The meetings require a simple registration now, but it only takes a second.)

Remember, if you'd like to receive a reminder about the gathering an hour before it begins, please use the [registration form at the bottom of the page.](#)

This Week's Entry

Palestine Children's Day

April 5



Palestine celebrates Children's Day on April 5th. To commemorate Palestine Children's Day, you might be interested in reading the **UNICEF** report ["Children in the State of Palestine"](#).

And **Defence for Children International Palestine** has three videos on the rights of Palestinian children you should watch: ["Palestinian girls have rights to protect them from sexual harassment"](#), ["The rights of Palestinian children in residential care centers"](#), and ["Palestinian children speak out against the dangers of child marriage"](#). They also recently released ["Palestinian children in Gaza dream of a better future"](#).

Celebrate Palestine Children's Day on Tuesday and join us in advocating for Palestinian children and minors this week as we advocate for those caught in Israel's military court system.

Please note: To match the dates in the [calendar](#), we post a new entry and publish the newsletter each Saturday.

Sharing and publicizing: The graphics in this newsletter are designed to be the perfect size and shape to share to Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. So each week you can help the cause simply by sharing these images online. It's one more option you have to help.

Kumi Week #14: Minors in Military Courts

Week 14 of Kumi Now is now available [on the website](#). Since 1967, Israeli authorities have operated military courts in the West Bank, Israel, and Gaza Strip that have been used to prosecute many thousands of Palestinian civilians, including minors (12–17 years), for offenses ranging from acts of violence to peaceful protests and traffic offenses. While international humanitarian law allows for the establishment of military courts during times of military occupation to try civilians in specific circumstances, a military occupation is required to be temporary in nature.

Through more than five decades of occupation, fundamental principles of international law have been eroded and individual rights ignored with corrosive consequences for societies in the region and beyond. Now, Palestinian children are a target of the occupation and, in the words of Al-Haq, part of the psychological warfare "utilized by Israel to constantly remind the Palestinian population that it is subjugated and occupied." Here's what you need to know and what you can do so that together we can *rise up*.

Please read the essay on this issue and the story of a 14-year-old boy from Beit Ummar. Last year, we were joined by **Gerard Horton**, co-director of **Military Court Watch**. You can see his talk and Q and A starting at the [12:40 mark of the webinar](#). And here are a few more facts for you:

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MINORS IN MILITARY COURTS

Just the facts...

Approximately 500 to 1,000 children are detained each year.

95% of cases in the military courts end in conviction.

Israeli army commanders have full executive, legislative, and judicial authority over 3 million Palestinians in the West Bank.

Palestinians have no say in how this authority is exercised.

In 2020, 96 percent of children detained report being blindfolded.

Two children are currently held in administrative detention.

Over half of detained children are arrested at night and report physical and psychological abuse during arrest, transfer, or interrogation.

Approximately 50% of Palestinian child detainees are held in prisons in Israel in breach of Article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Children as young as 12 years can be prosecuted in the military courts.

Israeli children, including those living in illegal West Bank settlements, have far more rights than Palestinian children living under military law.

Sources: Military Court Watch

<http://kuminow.com/MinorsinMilitaryCourts>

Understanding Minors in Military Courts: Just the Facts...

- About 800,000 Palestinian men, women and children have been detained since 1967.
- Children as young as 12 years can be prosecuted in the military courts.
- Approximately 500-1,000 children are detained each year.
- Children are most commonly prosecuted for stone throwing.
- Over half of all detained children are arrested at night and report physical and psychological abuse during arrest, transfer and interrogation.
- 95% of cases in the military courts end in conviction.
- Approximately 50% of Palestinian child detainees are held in prisons in Israel in breach of Article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.
- Under Israeli military law army commanders have full executive, legislative and judicial authority over 3 million Palestinians living in the West Bank. Palestinians have no say in how this authority is exercised.
- Israeli military authorities in the West Bank continue to rely on the Fourth Geneva Convention as the legal basis for prosecuting Palestinian civilians, including children, in military courts. The same Convention prohibits settlement construction.
- Military courts used to prosecute civilians are permitted under international law but only on a temporary basis. Israeli military courts used to prosecute Palestinians from the West Bank have been operating since 1967.
- Israeli children, including those living in West Bank settlements built in violation of

international law, have far more rights and protections under civilian law than Palestinian children living under military law.

- Since 1967, over 1,800 military orders have been issued but few have been promptly translated into Arabic, as is required under the Fourth Geneva Convention. In theory, these laws have no legal effect until translated
- In 2013, UNICEF published a report which concluded that "the ill-treatment of children who come in contact with the military detention system appears to be widespread, systematic and institutionalised throughout the process".
- Most Palestinian children detained by the Israeli military in the West Bank live within 2 kilometres of a settlement built in violation of international law, or a road used by settlers.
- Dual Israeli legal systems operate in the West Bank. Palestinians are prosecuted in military courts, whereas Israeli settlers are prosecuted in civilian courts, with far greater rights and protections.

These facts are drawn from **Military Court Watch's** [Factsheet](#).

Learning More

To learn more, you should watch:

- This recent ["Online briefing on the impact of Israeli military detention on Palestinian children"](#) from **CAABU**, **DCIP**, and **Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights**.
- **Defence for Children International Palestine's** [playlist of the videos addressing Military Detention](#).

To go deeper, we have an extensive list of [Additional Resources](#) at the bottom of this week's entry and we're developing a [YouTube playlist](#) on the subject.

Once you understand the situation you'll want to get involved. Here's the Kumi Action for this week. We're now releasing a video each week focusing on the Kumi Action! Check out the one below on [YouTube](#).

Kumi Action



Host a potluck and a screening at your home, school, church, synagogue, etc. of the

documentary **Stone Cold Justice**, which can be found [on the Military Court Watch website](#). Share a photo from your potluck or film screening on social media. Include a link to this page of the Kumi Now website along with the hashtags #KumiNow and #Kumi22.

You Should Know

One or two people, companies, or organizations you should know, and how you can follow them online.



Youth of Sumud

Given that it is the week of Palestine Children's Day, we wanted to let you know about an inspirational and effective grassroots organization by and for Palestinian youth. **Youth of Sumud** formed in 2017 in the South Hebron Hills in response to ongoing aggression against farmers, families, and school children by settlers and soldiers in the area. They have undertaken to revive the village of Sauroram which was abandoned in the 1980's because of settler violence.

During COVID-19, with international volunteers absent from the area, Youth of Sumud has assumed responsibility in assuring the safety of schoolchildren from the nearby village of Tuba as they walk between home and school past the nearby Israeli outpost. Additionally, harassment of Palestinian shepherds by Israeli settlers and soldiers is common in the area, and members of Youth of Sumud frequently accompany shepherds from the nearby villages as they graze flocks.

You can follow Youth of Sumud on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). And you can learn more about them and support them financially on [Palestine Partners](#). And you can listen to Samiha Hureini, one of the co-founders of Youth of Sumud on an [episode of the Unsettled podcast](#).

Upcoming Weeks

And here's what we have coming up in April so you can plan ahead and decide how you want to be a part of Kumi Now:

April 9 to 15: Week 15 - Home Demolitions

[Read the full entry online.](#)

The use of violence, demolitions, and psychological warfare to force and scare Palestinians into leaving their homes and villages go back to the roots of the conflict.



In 1948, operations such as the Deir Yassin massacre, which occurred April 9, destroyed whole villages and forced others to flee. While Israel's current home demolitions avoid much of the physical violence of those early operations, they still maintain the psychological elements, attempting to physically force them from their homelands and disincentivizing them from staying in their villages.

For our Kumi Action we will research if our own governments, local and national, do business with the companies that supply the equipment for Israel's home demolitions and urge them to cut ties with these companies.

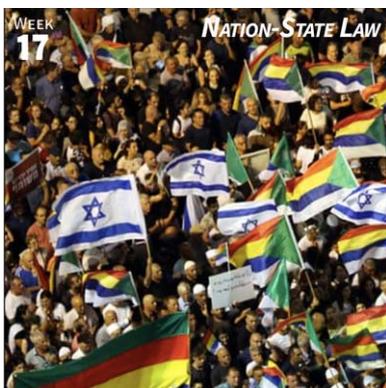


April 16 to 22: Week 16 - Administrative Detention

[Read the full entry online.](#)

This Palestinian Prisoners Day, April 17, let us remember the thousands of Palestinian political prisoners. At the end of 2019, 464 of these prisoners were being held through administrative detention. Through administrative detention, Palestinian detainees can be held indefinitely, with few legal rights.

For our Kumi Action we perform a thought experience on administrative detention, write about it, and share our experiences with others.



April 23 to 29: Week 17 - Nation-State Law

[Read the full entry online.](#)

On May 1, 2018, the Knesset passed the Nation-State law (officially Basic Law: Israel as the Nation-State of the Jewish People) in its first reading. As we approach the anniversary of this passage, we as a Kumi Community want to analyze this law and what it means for Palestinians and other minorities in Israel.

For our Kumi Action we will make it clear that it is not too late for Israeli politicians to change their direction and pass legislation that would provide equality for all of its citizens.

You Should Watch or Read

Recent and not-so-recent films, books, music, and other arts related to Palestine, as well as news about festivals and other events



Les Dupes

The Palestine Film Institute's film of the week is **Fix Me** (Drama, 106 minutes). You have until Wednesday to watch it for free [on their website](#). About the film:

“Set in the 1950s, *The Dupes* traces the destinies of three different men brought together by their dispossession, their despair and their hope for a better future. The protagonists are Palestinian refugees who are trying to make their way across the border from Iraq into Kuwait, the 'Promised Land,' concealed in the steel tank of a truck. Representing different dimensions of the Palestinian experience, each one believes he can make a new life for himself, but as the film's title suggests, their flight is no solution. One of the first Arab films to address the Palestinian question, 'The Dupes' is based on the 1962 novella *Men in the Sun* by assassinated Palestinian writer, artist and resistance leader, Ghassan Kanafani. Set in Palestine and Iraq, and filmed in Syria by Tewfik Saleh, an Egyptian director, the film was banned in several Arab countries due to its implied criticisms of Arab governments.”

What's Next

We hope to see you in the online gathering on Tuesday, after which you'll receive another newsletter next Saturday, focused on our next issue, [Home Demolitions](#). As always, there is more to come!

Sincerely,

The Kumi Now Team

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