

# Children in Military Custody

London 26 June 2012

## **Report Launch: Children in Military Custody - a report written by a delegation of British lawyers on the treatment of Palestinian children under Israeli military law**

A report launched today by a delegation of British lawyers assesses the treatment of Palestinian children under Israeli military law and sets out recommendations for potential improvements.

The report, which is published at **7pm on Tuesday 26 June**, is the result of a visit by nine lawyers to the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Israel in September 2011. During their visit the delegation held meetings with the former Chief Justice of the Israeli Supreme Court, senior military judges and prosecutors, Israeli government departments, NGOs, lawyers, former child prisoners and former Israeli soldiers, to assess each stage in the process: arrest, interrogation, bail hearings and plea bargains, trial, sentencing, detention and complaints.

The report:

- Assesses the applicability of international human rights and humanitarian law, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Discusses compliance with international standards.
- Highlights the differences between Israeli domestic law applied to Israeli children and Israeli military law applied to Palestinian children in the West Bank.
- Sets out 40 specific recommendations covering cover areas of potential improvement in relation to arrest, interrogation, bail hearings, plea bargains, trial, sentencing, detention, complaints and monitoring.

The group was brought together solely for the purpose of the visit and report. Its members, who have not worked as a group for any other purpose, were selected for their knowledge and experience of human rights law and procedure relating to both crime and child welfare, and for experience of socio-legal research.

The project was funded by the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office, which also provided diplomatic support throughout the visit.

The report will be available online at [www.childreninmilitarycustody.org](http://www.childreninmilitarycustody.org) from 7PM. Contact Julie Tomlin: [julie@cimc.org.uk](mailto:julie@cimc.org.uk) for more details.