



Defence for Children International/Palestine Section
الحركة العالمية للدفاع عن الأطفال / فرع فلسطين

**Defence for Children International/Palestine Section (DCI/PS) -
Submission to the United Nations Human Rights Council's
Universal Periodic Review of Israel**

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Defence for Children International/Palestine Section (DCI/PS) is a national section of the international non-governmental child rights organisation and movement, Defence for Children International (DCI), established in 1979, with consultative status with ECOSOC. DCI/PS was established in 1992, and is dedicated to promoting and protecting the rights of Palestinian children in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), as well as other international, regional and local standards.

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ISRAEL

Defence for Children International-Palestine Section (DCI/PS)¹ Submission to the UN Universal Periodic Review

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In this submission, DCI/PS provides information under Section C, **Promotion and Protection of Human Rights on the Ground: Implementation of international human rights obligations** of the Human Rights Council's Guidelines for the Preparation of Information under UPR.²

Key Words: right to life and security of the person; children; torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment; settler violence; human shields.

Category: Right to life, liberty and security of the person

Topic 1: Torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment

Key Issues: *DCI/PS is concerned that nine years after the Israeli High Court of Justice (HCJ) ruled in Public Committee Against Torture in Israel v The State of Israel (1999) (the torture ruling) that interrogations must be free of torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, and that these prohibitions are absolute, these practices continue to be employed against Palestinian adult and child detainees, before, during and after interrogations.*³

1. Although party to a number of human rights treaties which prohibit torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (ICCPR) and the *Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment* (CAT), Israel has yet to implement effective domestic legislation incorporating these prohibitions as urged by the Committee against Torture's concluding observations issued in November 2001.
2. Further, although the HCJ purported to rule that the practice of torture is prohibited, in somewhat contradictory fashion, it left open the possibility that an Israeli official charged with torture may escape criminal liability by virtue of the defence of necessity contained in

¹ DCI/PS also endorses the UPR submissions of Adalah, Addameer, Al Haq, the Civic Coalition to Defend Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem, and the Right to Education Campaign.

² UN Doc. A/HRC/6/L.24. 24 September 2007

³ *Public Committee against Torture in Israel v The State of Israel* (1999) 53(4) PD 81, para. 15. See also DCI/PS – *Palestinian Child Prisoners 2007* – www.dci-pal.org/english/display.cfm?DocId=725&CategoryId=8; B'Tselem – www.btselem.org/English/Beating_and_Abuse; and Public Committee against Torture in Israel (PCATI): *No Defence: Soldier Violence against Palestinian Detainees*, 2008 - www.stoptorture.org.il/files/No_Defense_Eng.pdf

section 34(1) of the Israeli *Penal Law* (1977). The Court also reasoned that Israeli authorities would be permitted to torture if the requisite legislation was enacted by the Knesset.⁴

3. DCI/PS continues to receive reports of torture and other forms of ill treatment against Palestinian adult and child detainees. These reports include the excessive use of blindfolds and handcuffs that cut the flesh, beating, slapping and kicking, sleep deprivation, solitary confinement, denial of food and water and access to toilets, exposure to the elements, position abuse, yelling and exposure to loud noises, and insults and cursing. Many of these techniques occur in conjunction with each other over long periods of time.⁵
4. In addition to the physical techniques referred to above, DCI/PS is concerned by the continued threats used by Israeli authorities against adult and child detainees in order to induce confessions, including threats to harm the detainee's family. DCI/PS received reports as recently as 2008 of threats to beat child detainees or family members, threats of imprisonment for indefinite periods of time, threats to revoke work or study permits and threats to demolish the family home.⁶
5. Of particular concern to DCI/PS is the use of coercive techniques by Israeli authorities to extract confessions which are then used to convict both adults and children in the military courts. In June 2008, DCI/PS received a report of a 15-year-old boy being threatened with sexual assault to elicit a confession to throwing stones. Upon being threatened the boy immediately confessed and was sentenced to five months imprisonment [Annex I].⁷ In the same month DCI/PS received a report of a 14-year-old boy accused of throwing stones at the Wall, being asked to sign papers for his release, only to be told after he signed that it was a confession. An Israeli military court accepted this confession and sentenced the boy to four-and-a-half months' imprisonment.⁸
6. A further concerning practice regularly encountered by DCI/PS is the provision of typed confessions to Palestinian child detainees written in Hebrew in circumstances where the child detainee does not read, write or speak the language.
7. Although Israel is a State Party to CAT (prohibiting the admission into evidence of any statement found to have been obtained under torture⁹), and to ICCPR (whose last General

⁴ *Public Committee against Torture in Israel v The State of Israel* (1999) 53(4) PD 81, para. 36 and 37

⁵ See footnote 3

⁶ PCATI: *Family Matters: Using Family Members to Pressure Detainees under GSS Interrogation*, April 2008 – www.stoptorture.org.il/files/Fmily%20Matters%20full%20report%20eng.pdf and DCI/PS: *Use of torture on 17-year-old boy by Israeli security service* - www.dci-pal.org/english/display.cfm?DocId=754&CategoryId=12

⁷ DCI/PS: *15-year-old beaten and threatened with sexual assault* – www.dci-pal.org/english/display.cfm?DocId=796&CategoryId=12

⁸ DCI/PS: *14-year-old beaten by Israeli soldiers and imprisoned* – www.dci-pal.org/english/display.cfm?DocId=797&CategoryId=12

⁹ CAT Article 15

Comment reinforces this prohibition among derogations allowed from Article 14 in times of public emergency¹⁰), such statements are commonly relied upon in the Israeli military courts, by which all Palestinian children and adults are tried, in order to obtain convictions.¹¹ In DCI/PS's experience, 95 per cent of convictions against Palestinian children in the Israeli military courts are obtained through the use of confessional evidence, most of which is obtained illegally.¹²

8. Although the HCJ has authoritatively ruled on the admissibility of illegally obtained evidence in *Yissacharov v Chief Military Prosecutor* (2006), DCI/PS remains concerned that the discretion given to judges to admit such evidence is too broad and contrary to the strict prohibition contained in article 15 of CAT.
9. Finally, DCI/PS is concerned that there is no effective mechanism for investigating complaints of torture. According to Israel's last periodic report to the UN Committee against Torture (2 November 2006), complaints made against the Israeli Security Agency (ISA) are dealt with by the Inspector for Complaints within the ISA.¹³ According to the same report, in 2002-2005 the ISA Inspector for Complaints initiated 386 examinations without a single criminal charge being filed.¹⁴

Topic 2: Israeli settler violence

Key issues: *DCI/PS is concerned by the growing incidence of acts of violence perpetrated by Israeli settlers on Palestinian civilians and the concurrent and ongoing construction of illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank. Assaults generally consist of beatings, shootings, stone throwing, or hit-and-runs. DCI/PS directly investigated 11 cases of settler attacks committed against Palestinian children in 2007 [See annexes II, III, IV, V]. However, in reality, attacks take place almost daily, and the vast majority remain unreported and/or unpunished.*

10. One of the most serious cases documented by DCI/PS is that of 15-year-old Amran from the Nablus area.¹⁵ In July 2007, Amran was severely beaten by two armed settlers as he herded sheep near his village. Settlers blindfolded him, bound his hands, removed his trousers and underwear, and beat him so badly (including around his genitals) that he lost consciousness. He woke up in a different area, alone and naked. He walked to the main road to summon a passing car for help and was hospitalised for five days following the attack [Annex V].

¹⁰ ICCPR: *General Comment No. 32 – Article 14: Right to equality before courts and tribunals and to a fair trial*, CCPR/C/GC/32, August 2007, para. 6 – www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrc/docs/gcart14.doc

¹¹ Refer to the UPR submission on fair trial rights by Addameer - Prisoners' Support and Human Rights Association

¹² DCI/PS: *Palestinian Child Prisoners 2007*, p.19 – www.dci-pal.org/english/display.cfm?DocId=725&CategoryId=8

¹³ CAT/C/ISR/4, 2 November 2006, para.41 – www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cat/docs/CAT.C.ISR.4.doc

¹⁴ *Ibid.* para. 46 and 47

¹⁵ DCI/PS: *Assault and kidnapping of Amran* – www.dci-pal.org/english/display.cfm?DocId=598&CategoryId=1

11. In 2007, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) documented 76 cases of settler violence resulting in death or injury of Palestinians: 20 per cent more than in 2006. Over the first five months (January-May) of 2008 alone, OCHA documented 42 settler attacks on Palestinians, including one child fatality and five injuries.¹⁶
12. A 2006 report by the Israeli organisation Yesh Din provides three main explanations for the absence of effective law enforcement procedures regarding settler attacks:¹⁷
- The Israeli army, which as the occupying force, bears primary responsibility for the protection of civilians living under its control,¹⁸ tends to ignore settler offences;
 - Victims face significant physical and bureaucratic difficulties in filing complaints;¹⁹
 - Investigations, when at all carried out, show serious negligence and disregard for the most cursory investigative procedures.²⁰
13. In July 2008, Yesh Din revealed that 85 per cent of the assault files they were monitoring since 2005, and in which the investigation was completed, were closed without indictments.²¹
14. Further difficulties compound this situation. For example, settlers often deliberately use children under the age of 12 (the age of legal responsibility in Israel) to carry out attacks because they are immune from prosecution – a fact which was acknowledged by the Assistant-Commander of the Hebron District.²² In addition, Palestinian complainants, especially children, often fear further harassment from settlers as punishment, or are afraid of punitive measures from the Israeli authorities (withdrawal of permits, etc). For these reasons and a general lack of confidence in the Israeli law enforcement system, victims tend to avoid lodging complaints altogether, fuelling a vicious circle of increased violence and impunity.

Topic 3: Human shields

Key issues: *DCI/PS is concerned that despite the HCJ ruling banning the use of Palestinians as human shields by the Israeli army in October 2005, incidents are still reported*

¹⁶ OCHA: *Humanitarian Monitor*, May 2008 – www.ochaopt.org/documents/HM_May_2008.pdf

¹⁷ Yesh Din: *A Semblance of Law: Law Enforcement upon Israeli Civilians in the West Bank*, June 2006, p.121 – www.yesh-din.org/report/ASemblanceofLaw-Eng.pdf

¹⁸ *Fourth Geneva Convention*, Art. 27

¹⁹ E.g. they must arrange appointments in advance and/or enter police stations located inside settlements; they often arrive to find that a police officer is not present; they are made to wait for hours; etc.

²⁰ “*More than half of the investigation files examined by Yesh Din do not meet adequate standards of investigation*” e.g. Complaints handled in Hebrew; police rarely visit the scene; key witnesses not interviewed; suspect identification line-ups rarely conducted; alibis often unchecked; cases often closed while files still incomplete; etc.

²¹ Yesh Din: *Law Enforcement upon Israeli Civilians in the OPT: Yesh Din's Monitoring*, July 2008, p.4

²² Yesh Din: *A Semblance of Law*, p.43

*episodically.*²³ *The use of civilians as human shields also constitutes a war crime. DCI/PS documented four cases of children used as human shields in 2007. Together, DCI/PS, B'Tselem and Al-Haq documented at least six child cases and 10 adult cases of Palestinians used as human shields by the Israeli army throughout 2007. However, investigations are rarely carried out and perpetrators remain unpunished.*

15. The practice consists in using civilians to protect a certain area from military attack or in forcing civilians to carry out dangerous military tasks to assist operations. Examples are: entering houses to search for explosives, removing suspicious objects from roads, standing near or walking in front of soldiers during incursions to prevent Palestinian combatants from firing or throwing stones at them, while soldiers sometimes fire over their shoulders.
16. The use of human shields contravenes articles 28 and 51 of the *Fourth Geneva Convention*, which prohibit the use of civilians “to render certain points or areas immune from military operations” and coercing civilians into “taking part in military operations” respectively. Furthermore, in the case of minors, the practice infringes article 38 of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (CRC), which imposes a duty on States Parties to ensure that no child under 15 takes part in hostilities. Israel is a State Party to both conventions. Under the *Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court*, which Israel has signed but not ratified, the use of human shields is a war crime.²⁴
17. In 2005, the H CJ authoritatively ruled²⁵ that the practice of using human shields runs counter to principles contained in the *Fourth Geneva Convention* and that: “*The civilian population is not to be used for the military needs of the occupying army*”.²⁶
18. Despite this, human rights organisations report ongoing use of human shields by Israeli soldiers in the occupied territory. In February 2007, during an incursion in Nablus the Israeli army used two children as human shields.²⁷ Jihan (11) was interrogated and threatened before being forced to walk in front of Israeli soldiers into an abandoned building which the soldiers believed was sheltering Palestinian combatants [Annex VI]. Two days earlier, Ameer (15) had been forced at gun point to walk in front of soldiers and enter several houses while soldiers were shooting behind and around him [Annex VII]. These and two other child cases were reported in the latest UN Secretary-General’s report on children and armed conflict.²⁸ B’Tselem also reported the case of a 14-year-old girl shot and severely injured by

²³ DCI/PS: *Israeli Violations of the Right to Life: Palestinian Child Fatalities in the occupied Palestinian territory during the First Half of the Year 2007* – www.dci-pal.org/english/doc/reports/2007/nov10.pdf

²⁴ Article 8(2)(b)(xxiii) of the *Rome Statute*

²⁵ *Adalah v Military Commander of the West Bank* H CJ 3799/02 – www.adalah.org/features/humshields/decision061005.pdf

²⁶ *Ibid.* para. 24 per Aharon Barak, the then Chief Justice of the H CJ

²⁷ These violations were documented by DCI/PS, Al-Haq and B’Tselem

²⁸ A/62/609-S/2007/757, para.83 – www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/62/609

an Israeli soldier while being used as a human shield in July 2007 near al-Bureij refugee camp in Gaza.

19. These incidents and others [See annexes VIII, IX, X and full list in annex XI] demonstrate an unwillingness on the part of Israeli military commanders' to accept the HCJ ruling, and an inability of the Court to enforce its own orders.²⁹ Further, the practice continues with apparent impunity and a lack of effective investigation.³⁰

Recommended Questions to Israel:

Topic 1: Torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment

1. How is Israel's use of torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment against children consistent with the provisions of the CAT and the CRC, both ratified by Israel; and when will Israel enact effective legislation fully incorporating the provisions of CAT into domestic law?
2. When will Israel enact effective legislation that unambiguously prohibits the admission into evidence of all material obtained by means of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment?
3. What measures will Israel adopt to ensure that all cases involving allegations of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, especially of children, are thoroughly and impartially investigated and those found responsible are brought promptly to justice?

Topic 2: Israeli settler violence

4. What measures will Israel adopt to ensure that Palestinians living in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, especially children, are protected from settler attacks and that all such attacks are thoroughly and impartially investigated and those found responsible are brought promptly to justice?

Topic 3: Human shields

5. What measures will Israel adopt to ensure that all cases involving human shields, especially children who benefit from special protection under international humanitarian law, are

²⁹ Refer to the UPR submission on the HCJ by Adalah – The Legal Centre for Arab Minority Rights in Israel

³⁰ See B'Tselem: *Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, Annual Report 2007*, p.35 – www.btselem.org/Download/200712_Annual_Report_eng.pdf

thoroughly and impartially investigated and those found responsible are brought promptly to justice?

ANNEX I – Affidavit from 15-year-old boy beaten, threatened with sexual assault, and imprisoned by the Israeli army in November 2007

Name of victim: Ibrahim Ahmad Rashid Sabarneh

Date of birth: 1 February 1992

Date of arrest: 8 November 2007

Age of victim at incident: 15

Location: Beit Ummar

Accusation: Stone-throwing, throwing Molotov cocktails, membership in Islamic Jihad

Affidavit taken: 14 June 2008

Affidavit collected by: DCI/PS

On Thursday, 8 November 2007, at around 2:00 am I was sleeping when soldiers from the Israeli army banged on the door of our house. I believe my father went to open the door and then woke up the whole family. We all then gathered by the front door of the house. I saw around eight Israeli soldiers in our house. When my family came to the doorway an Israeli officer asked: “*Who is Ibrahim?*” My father went to his bedroom to get my birth certificate and then introduced the Israeli officer to me.

Some soldiers then blindfolded me and tied my hands behind my back with plastic ties. Whilst this was happening the soldiers were shouting at my father in Hebrew. I was led outside by the soldiers and placed in a seat in the back of an army truck. Almost immediately, I was taken out of the truck again, my blindfold was untied and I was asked about one of my friends – where was he living – I responded that I didn't know. Four soldiers then started slapping me for around one minute. They then blindfolded me again and put me on the floor of a military jeep.

Once the jeep started to move, the soldiers started beating me again with their hands and feet whilst pouring cola and spitting on me. This went on for the whole trip to Karmi Zur, a settlement where there is a military base, around 15 minutes away. I could not tell how many people were in the jeep with me because of the blindfold, however I could tell that more than one person was beating me.

When we reached Karmi Zur, other military vehicles transporting prisoners arrived as well, and we started to ask each other for names and information. The soldiers then put us up against a wall. After a short time some soldiers approached me and put a gun against my head whilst another soldier photographed me. Although I was still blindfolded I could see the camera flash.

After a while the soldiers brought an army truck and put me and some other prisoners in the back. I was sitting in a seat but some other prisoners were on the floor. I was not beaten during

this trip. We drove for around 20 minutes before arriving at Etzion military detention centre. On arrival someone told us to get out of the truck and sit on the ground.

After a short time I was taken to see a doctor. I was led into a room and my blindfold was removed. The room I was in measured approximately 3x3 metres and contained a desk and a medicine cabinet. There was one soldier and a man and a woman who I assumed to be doctors. One of the doctors gave me a piece of paper with many illnesses listed on it. The doctor told me to tick any medical problems I had on the piece of paper. I ticked the box on the form for back pain. The doctor did not conduct an examination and took the paper from me. A soldier then put the blindfold back on me and took me out of the room.

I was taken outside into a yard and told to sit on the ground with the other prisoners who had already seen the doctor. After all the prisoners, there were 22 of us, had seen the doctor, our hands and feet were tied together and we were put in groups of two and tied together with a chain. I stayed in the yard for around 24 hours – from 6:00 am on the day of arrest until the early morning hours of the next day. During that 24-hour period soldiers would come out and take us away, one by one, for interrogation. We were not given any food but were allowed to go to the bathroom if we asked the soldiers guarding us. When we went to the bathroom we were able to drink some water.

On the afternoon of the first day I was taken for interrogation. When they took me they untied the chain that linked me to the other prisoner and tied my hands behind me with plastic ties. Although still blindfolded I was able to see a little from underneath the blindfold. I was then taken away to a shipping container, which contained two desks and some cupboards.

When I entered the container a man introduced himself but I forget his name. The man told me to sit on a small stool and said that he was recording everything I said with a voice recorder. The interrogator said: *“You are a member of Islamic Jihad.”* I said: *“No I’m not.”* The interrogator then accused me of throwing stones and Molotov cocktails and said: *“You are a member of Islamic Jihad and you used to go out with them at night wearing a keffiyeh over your face to write graffiti.”* I denied the accusations.

The interrogator then led me out of the room to another room inside the container and untied my blindfold. Once my blindfold was removed I saw two other detainees under the age of 18. I also saw the interrogator for the first time who was tall and blond. I don’t remember anything else about him. The interrogator pointed to another man wearing a T-shirt and army trousers. This other man was tall, well-built, with many muscles and bald. The interrogator then said that the bald man would beat me if I did not confess. I said: *“That’s okay. Let him beat me.”*

The bald man then started kicking me and the other two children with his heavy army boots, whilst our hands were still tied. The kicking lasted about five minutes and was directed towards our legs.

After the bald man stopped kicking us, I was taken to a third room where a different man introduced himself as Samir. He was alone in the room. He started asking me questions about Molotov cocktails. *"You were throwing Molotov cocktails with another person on Route 60 in August."* He then told me that this was on the same day as a wedding party in my neighbourhood, to specify the date. I denied the accusation. Samir then said: *"If you didn't throw it the other person who was with you did."* I said I didn't know.

Then Samir started asking me about stone-throwing. He said that on the night of 7 November 2007, I threw stones at the army when they invaded my village of Beit Omar. At first I denied this allegation. Around two hours later Samir said: *"If you don't confess, I will send you to somebody who will sexually abuse you. He has a huge penis."* When the interrogator threatened me in this way I confessed that I threw stones.

While the interrogator was writing my confession in Hebrew, a soldier came and blindfolded me and took me to another room with the written confession. He then removed the blindfold and took two pictures of me. Then the soldier took me to another room and fingerprinted me on a blank piece of paper. The soldier then put the fingerprints with the written confession. This was around sunset. Up until this point I had not been fed at all.

I was then blindfolded again and my hands were tied behind my back I was then put in a bus with some other prisoners. There were about 22 of us. They put each of us in a seat. In the bus I could see two soldiers from under my blindfold. Around six hours later we arrived at Megiddo detention centre at around midnight. We then waited in the bus for half an hour and then drove to Huwarra detention centre. I don't remember how long this part of the journey took.

When we arrived at Huwarra, the soldiers asked all the other prisoners to get out, except for me. I asked them why I was not being left at Huwarra with the others. The soldier told me: *"because you are too young and you don't have ID."*

I was then led out of the bus and placed in a van, still blindfolded and handcuffed. I was put in the back of the van with two soldiers on either side of me. I was then driven to Ofer prison where we arrived in the afternoon.

On arrival at Ofer I was taken out of the van and put in a cage at the entrance of the prison where I stayed for one hour. After about an hour I was taken to see a doctor. The doctor asked me if I was suffering from anything, so I told him I had back pain. The doctor told me to tell this to the doctor who would come to visit me in my prison cell. After seeing the doctor, a prison guard came and took me to a tent which measured approximately 5x8 metres.

I remained in Ofer prison for 20 days. On the fifth day I was taken to the military court where my detention was extended by the military judge. I did not see my lawyer until I was inside the court room. The hearing to extend my detention lasted around two minutes. I don't remember what else took place at the hearing.

On 20 November I was woken up at 6:00 am and taken to the military court again. My mother and my aunt were in the court this time. This was the first time I'd seen my family since I was arrested. The hearing took place at midday. My lawyer made a plea bargain with the prosecution and I was sentenced to six months imprisonment with a NIS 1,000 fine. This hearing lasted approximately three minutes. After my hearing was over I was put in a cell near the court room measuring 3x3 metres, where I waited until 7:00 pm. There were around 14 others in this cell, all older than me.

On 27 November 2007, I was transferred to Addamoun prison. The situation was very bad at Addamoun. We were given food once or twice per day and we had to depend on the cantina to supplement our diet. The cell where I was held contained seven prisoners, all of who were under 18. We were allowed to go out of the cells twice a day for 1.5 hours each time. The first time my family was allowed to visit me was on 14 February 2008, for 45 minutes. In total, I was visited four times whilst I was in prison. Whilst in Addamoun, I was in a section with 100 people, three of who were under 18.

At Addamoun we were offered classes three days per week for three hours each time, by an Arab teacher from Haifa. There were around 20 children in each class at one time. We received lessons in Arabic, maths, Hebrew, and sometimes science and geography. During the classes we were not given any books, but the teacher would give us pencils and paper for us to write down what he said. All the children in Addamoun received the same education, regardless of age and ability. I attended these classes until the end of March. There was no education at all in Ofer prison.

When I was arrested I was in the 10th grade. I was not a good student, my average was in the 60s. As a result of my prison experience I lost one academic year. Instead of repeating the 10th grade, I have decided to leave the academic stream and attend a vocational school in Jericho run by the YMCA, where I will study carpentry. I made the decision to leave the academic stream because I lost one academic year in prison. I think academic education is better but I won't repeat a year of school. If I didn't have to repeat the year I would have stayed on at school, but I didn't want to repeat the year and be with other younger students. I will be in vocational school for two years to become a carpenter.

I was detained for five months and was released on 8 April 2008, at around 1:00 pm.

Signed by: Ibrahim Ahmad Rashid Sabarneh on 14 June, 2008

I agree to have this information published under my name.

ANNEX II – Full list of cases of settler attacks against Palestinian children documented by DCI/PS in 2007**Name (age) Date of incident**

Ishaq A. [full name withdrawn] (3), 13 January 2007
Ra'fat Askar (16), 23 January 2007
Haitham Ali Khaleel Abu Mifrih (14), 17 April 2007
Thaer Naeem Mohammad E'beid (17), 26 April 2007
Dina al-Makhamrah (9), 8 April 2007
Riyad Awad (8), 8 April 2007
Dalal Awad (11), 8 April 2007
Amran Ayman Tayseer Farah (15), 24 July 2007
Hamdullah Zeidan Mohammad Safadi (16), 24 August 2007
Jihad Asa'd Najih Safadi (16), 24 August 2007
Wasim H. [full name withdrawn] (7), 24 November 2007

ANNEX III – Affidavit from 15-year-old boy beaten and robbed by Israeli settlers near Nablus in April 2008**Name of victim:** Mohammad Mousa Fares Al-Hindi**Date of birth:** 21 May 1992**Date of incident:** 9 April 2008**Age of victim at incident:** 15**Location:** Tel village, Nablus governorate**Occupation:** Student**Affidavit taken on:** 14 April 2008**Affidavit collected by:** DCI/PS

On Wednesday 9 April 2008 at around 7:30 am I left my home in Tel village in the Nablus area and went to a piece of land belonging to our family located to the west of the village to bring wood for my mother who was baking on the fire. I didn't attend school that day, as the school went for a picnic and I didn't go with them. Our land is about 200 metres from the village, from the last house of the village from that side, but from our home is about 3 kilometres. When I reached our land, I was riding a donkey I started to cut the wood with the saw and collected it in order to return in the afternoon to take it. I spent around one hour working then I finished I left the land to return to the village.

After I walked for 120 metres from our land I was going uphill so I was unable to see who was in front of me from far away. Suddenly I met tens of settlers coming from a side road towards the road where I was walking. So I found myself amongst tens of settlers, I can't remember exactly how many they were. I was riding a black donkey. Most of the settlers had beards and curls and they were wearing small white hats on their heads.

When I was in the middle of them, one settler approached me, he was white with curls and wearing a white hat and a white blouse, and he had a wooden stick. He took from me the saw, then another settler approached me and took my mobile, he also had a stick. Most of the settlers that I saw had wooden or plastic sticks. One of them was carrying weapons, I think an M16, and another four were carrying weapons that I don't know what they are.

They divided themselves in two groups and they stood watching while one of the settlers, who was black, searched me. When I asked him about the mobile he refused to return it, so I got off the donkey and he beat me strongly with the stick on my head. So I sat on the donkey and started crying.

At that moment tens of settlers surrounded me and started beating me with their sticks on my back on shoulders and I was screaming and calling my dad and mom. I asked them to stop beating me and I was trying to protect myself with my hands. The more I would ask to stop

beating me, the more beating would come from the other side. I was on the donkey and I did not get off it. I had a wallet with 70 Shekels, I was afraid they may take it.

They beat me for 10 minutes after that the other group of settlers searched me and one took 10 Shekels, one took the lighter, another one took a pen, and another one came and took off my boot and another took tissues from my pocket. One of them tried to take a ring from my finger but he didn't succeed because the ring was very tight, then they left the place and I shouted at them that I need my mobile. They refused to give it back to me, and the settler who was carrying the weapon threatened me that he'd shoot me if I didn't leave the place.

They left to the bypass road towards Jilad area then I found my cousin Khaled who was grazing his cows and he escaped when he saw the settlers. I told him about what happened, I was without shoes, and riding the donkey. Then I went to the bypass road on the west of the village and I waited until an Israeli military jeep arrived. It stopped. There were two people in it, I told them about what happened to me, they were able to speak in Arabic so they told me: "*We can't do anything*" and they left. I continued on my way on the bypass road. I went to Madama village and when I arrived there, I saw the settler who took the saw from me alone, he was carrying the wooden stick. So I told him that I need my saw, he escaped towards a black car with a yellow plate and left.

I went to an Israeli military place overlooking our village which has been there since the beginning of the second *Intifada*. When I approached the base a military jeep met me, it stopped near me and the soldiers asked me why I was there. So I told them that I was beaten by the settlers, but they were unable to understand what I was telling them, so I started gesticulating that I was beaten from settlers.

At that point I looked towards the Jilad area, on the east of the military base. So I saw a group of settlers walking towards the Jilad area through the mountains and I pointed towards the settlers. The soldiers were able to decode my gesticulation so they sent one of the soldiers who brought biscuits and juice for me. At this point I got off from my donkey and I stepped on the road without shoes. I didn't know what the time was as they had taken my mobile.

One of the soldiers started to look through the binocular towards the settlers and he asked me to stop crying and asked my mobile number; he gave me his mobile and asked me my mobile number and called. But he told me that it was off. Then the soldiers asked me to wait and they left the place towards the bypass road and I stayed with the donkey.

Then a military lorry with a water container arrived with two soldiers, one of them was able to speak in Arabic, I told them what happened, so he called somebody then he gave me and the donkey water to drink and went to the mountain area. Then two military border police jeeps arrived, a group of soldiers came towards me and asked me what happened. I told them. The soldiers asked me to take off my clothes to see where the settlers beat me.

While I was waiting, showing them where I was beaten, an old man came from the area of Bourin village screaming and asking for help. He was saying "*They took the cattle from me*", and he meant the settlers. He informed the soldiers about what happened. The soldiers asked me whether I wanted to file a complaint. I said yes, so they put me in a jeep with the old man, then they tied my donkey, I was shoeless, they went towards Ariel settlement, to the police station there and there I gave a statement to the policeman. Then they put me and the old man in a police car and they drove us to Za'tara check point and there they left us and I was still shoeless. Then I stopped a car that took me to Madama, I got home, after walking for 3 kilometres shoeless. I reached my home after dawn. I was exhausted.

Signed by: Mohammad Mousa Fares Al-Hindi on 14 April 2008

I agree to have this information published under my name.

ANNEX IV – Affidavit from mother whose son was attacked by settler in Hebron in February 2006

Name of victim: Ahmad

Age of victim at incident: 10

Name of person giving affidavit: Suha 'Abd-al-Rahman “Muhammad Qasem” Haddad

Relationship to victim: Mother

Date of birth: 10 September 1966

Affidavit collected by: Al-Haq

After having been warned to tell the truth and nothing but the truth or else I shall be subjected to penal action, I the undersigned, Suha 'Abd-al-Rahman “Muhammad Qasem” Haddad, holder of ID No. 933246142, born on 10 September 1966, a housewife and a resident of Tal al-Rumeida, Hebron Governorate, would like to declare the following:

I live with my eight-member family in Tal al-Rumeida village. My eldest child is my 19-year-old daughter Riham and the youngest is my five-year-old son Qusai. My husband is a worker. Ramat Shanay settlement is near our home; in fact, it is only 40 metres away from it.

On Saturday, 4 February 2006, at 4:00 pm, I heard my son Diya' (12) shouting. He was playing outside our home with his brother Ahmad (born on 10 December 1995). My husband 'Abd-al-Karim 'Abd-al-Rahman-Haddad (44) and I hurried over to see what was happening. I saw a number of settlers (about eight, 20 years old and over) chasing my son Diya' and throwing stones at him. My son was running and shouting.

I asked Diya' about his brother Ahmad and he told me that the settlers had attacked them and he didn't know where Ahmad had gone. When my husband heard this, he threw stones at the settlers and made them go away. My husband and my sons went to search for Ahmad. I followed them. While we were searching, we found Ahmad lying on the ground two metres below the road that leads to our home. He was lying there motionless. I shouted and my husband jumped down to where Ahmad was lying. My son Talal (14) joined him.

I called out to the soldiers who were at a military post established for protecting the settlers. It was only 20 metres away from us but the soldier merely looked at me and did not answer. My husband carried Ahmad, who was unconscious and bleeding from his head, and hurried to the hospital located approximately two kilometres from our home. Although the actual distance to the hospital is only two kilometres, we would have had to walk five kilometres to get there because the Shuhada' street is closed. My husband walked around 100 metres and then took a taxi. I returned home to change and to get money and the insurance card. Then I followed my husband and my two sons to the hospital.

I had only walked a few metres away from the house when I heard my daughter Shatha (16) screaming. I quickly returned home with my son Talal and found two settlers at the doorway of our home and many others heading toward it. My son and I began to yell and throw stones at the settlers while my daughter continued screaming from inside our home. The settlers ran away and my daughter opened the door and told me that the settlers had tried to enter our home but she had closed the door quickly. She said that she had accidentally hurt one of the settler's hands while she was shutting the door because she was very scared.

It was a difficult situation. I took my daughter and my other children to our neighbour's (Rajab 'Beido) house and Talal and I continued on our way to the hospital. At the hospital, the doctors were still treating Ahmad. I knew that his right hand was broken and he had been injured in his right eye and his head. I stayed by my son's side until he regained consciousness. He told me that the settlers had hit him with two stones; the first hit his head and the second hit his eye. He then fell down from a height of two metres. He could not remember anything else.

I stayed with my son in the hospital until 10:00 pm. After the doctors gave him stitches in his head and his eye and put a cast on his right hand, we went home. On Sunday, 5 February 2006, my husband went to the Israeli police headquarters and filed a complaint against the settlers. He provided the police with a physical description of the settlers. The settlers commit crimes in our quarter daily and we file one complaint after another, but nobody takes notice of our complaints or protects us from the settlers.

This is my declaration and hereby I sign, 23 February 2006

Signature: Suha 'Abd-al-Rahman

Name not withheld

ANNEX V – Affidavit from 15-year-old boy assaulted and kidnapped by Israeli settlers near Nablus in July 2007

Name of victim: Amran Ayman Tayseer Farah

Date of birth: 23 January 1992

Date of incident: 24 July 2007

Age of victim at incident: 15

Location: Baslitta, near Al-Qasra Village, Nablus area

Affidavit taken on: 30 July 2007

Affidavit collected by: DCI/PS

On Tuesday, 24 July 2007 I left the village so I could herd some sheep with my friends, Mailk Farid who is 14 years old and Ahmad Mohammad who is 18 years old. We went to an area known as “Baslitta” which we also refer to as “Al Wa'ar”. It is an area in the south of the village about 1 kilometre away.

I think it was around 2.45 pm when we left the village. We started herding the sheep and we sat on the ground and left the sheep to graze. We stayed seated so we didn't get too far from the sheep. I got up because there were some sheep that were straying. When I got back, I saw a small green tractor-on and two Israeli settlers were riding on it. The driver was wearing a grey shirt and army, khaki coloured trousers. He had a beard and long sideburns and long hair. He had a gun tucked into his side at the top of his trousers. I can't remember what the second settler was wearing but he had long hair and plaited sideburns and also a long beard. He was holding a long, black firearm.

When we saw the settlers, we all ran. We left the sheep. I heard shots being fired. I was running away from the shots. The shots were hitting the rocks and stones around the hill where we were running. I stopped and crouched down. I think I heard about 5 or 6 shots. When I knew they were shooting at us, I was very scared and I stood up suddenly. I didn't run, I was very scared.

At this time, the driver of the tractor-on got out of the tractor-on and started running towards me. The other settler stayed near the tractor. The driver approached me very quickly and grabbed me and started to hit me with his arms and legs all over my body. I tried to run away but he grabbed my head and started to hit it against a stone on the hill face. I was screaming from the pain and I was so scared he was going to kill me. He left me afterwards and ran off, I think to find Ahmad. I was lying on the ground.

The second settler approached me and started to hit me with his gun all over my body. He was hitting me with his gun on my forehead. I felt blood running down my face. He was hitting me for about 10 minutes.

At this time, the first settler who was the driver, returned. Both of them started hitting and kicking me with their hands and feet and their firearms for about 10 minutes. I was still conscious but I was in a lot of pain. I was screaming and saying “*My head!!, My Head!!!*” and “*Mother! Father! Please come and help me!*”

They ripped my shirt. It was a blue shirt and they ripped it off me and bound it around my eyes. They grabbed my arms and they dragged me towards the tractor-on. This was about 10 metres away. They tied my hands with what I felt were plastic cords. They put me in the tractor-on between them. The tractor-on started moving and my head hit the front of the tractor-on. Afterwards, I lost consciousness as I don't remember what happened.

I woke up to find them pouring water over me. The smell of the water was the smell of petrol. I was lying on the ground, my face on the ground and my wrists were tied together behind my back. I heard one of them say in Arabic “*Shall we shoot him?*” The other settler said “*Loh, Loh*” in Hebrew. They continued to beat me. I heard the sounds of a woman and some children. I thought I had been taken to their settlement. Afterwards, the beating stopped.

They started beating me again for about 5 minutes with their arms, legs and firearms all over my body. Afterwards, they got an electrical cord that felt very thick and they tied my wrists even though they were already tied. They also wrapped it around my head and mouth. My mouth was covered. They put me back into the tractor and the tractor started moving.

The tractor was in motion for about 10 minutes and all the time I couldn't see or move. Afterwards they pulled me out of the tractor and one of them grabbed me around my shoulder and kicked me around my legs. I fell on the ground on my face. They were swearing at me and cursing my sisters and mother.

They started to beat me again with their hands, feet and their firearms all over my body again. Then it stopped. They took off my trousers and underwear. I was wearing white boxer shorts and blue track pants and brown sandals. I was left in my singlet and black t-shirt. They then started to kick me and beat me with their firearms on the sides of my legs, and on my thighs and on my hands. I could feel electrical shocks on my hands. I was in so much pain.

One of them started to beat me in between my legs and around my testicles. I was in extreme pain. I was being beaten here for the longest time. I think it may have been about 15 minutes. I began to lose consciousness. Something hard came down on my head and I completely lost consciousness.

I regained consciousness but I don't know when. It was very hot. I realised I was alone. I attempted to drag myself through the dirt; my wrists were still tied behind my back. I was trying

to get the blindfold off my face by rubbing my head into the dirt. I continued to do this until the blindfold came off. I looked for my clothes and I couldn't find them. I found myself in the middle of nowhere in the forest somewhere on a hill.

I gradually stood up and I could see Duma Village in the distance. I thought at the time that it may have been about 1 kilometre away. I walked down the hill for about 1 kilometre. I found the main road which was the Jericho/Nablus Road. My hands were still tied behind my back. I started to hail down the cars. No one stopped. I did this for about 10 minutes.

A white Subaru stopped beside me and inside the car there were four people. One of them was from our village and he knew me and he got out of the car. They all got off the car and untied me. They gave me some water. They covered my lower body with something. They then put me in the car and took me to the village.

They took me to my village and some relatives there took me to a medical clinic in Qabalan Village. The staff bandaged my arms and hands and took me to Etihad Hospital in Nablus City.

My forehead wound was still bleeding at that time. My left hand was bleeding also. I was treated for these wounds at the hospital. My forehead was stitched with four stitches and my hand with five stitches. I stayed in hospital for five days.

The settlement near the place where we were herding the sheep is called Shilo. It consists of about six caravans. The settlers have in the past stopped local Palestinian residents from using village owned land near the settlement. I have been beaten by settlers before for herding sheep in a different area. The area is on the Jalood Road and is a plain, not in the hills.

Signed by: Amran Ayman Tayseer Farah on 30 July 2007
I agree to have this information published under my name.

ANNEX VI - Affidavit from 11-year-old girl used as a human shield by the Israeli army in Nablus in February 2007

Name of victim: Jihan Nimer Shahir D'adush

Date of birth: 3 October 1995

Date of incident: 28 February 2007

Age of victim at incident: 11

Location: al-Ato'ut neighbourhood, Old city, Nablus

Affidavit taken on: 24 March 2007

Affidavit collected by: DCI/PS

On Wednesday, 28 February 2007, at about 5:00 am, loud speakers of the Israeli soldiers who were imposing curfew woke me up. I was sleeping in my room along with my sister Hanan (15), my brother Muhammad (16) and my 23-year aunt. My room is a part of an old building located in the old city of Nablus. We live in the second floor. The house is divided by a 20-square-metre yard. My 40-square-metre room is located in the first part and has its own bathroom. My grandparents live in the room adjacent to my room. There is also another room in this part but it had been demolished during previous Israeli incursions of the old city. The other part of the house is where my parents stay is composed of two rooms, a corridor and a small kitchen. In other words, our house is like two houses adjacent to each other, separated by a 20-square-metre hall, and is on the second floor, whereas the first floor is abandoned.

Our house, located in, is 50 metres away from an-Nasr Street at the centre of the old city, and almost 300 metres to the east of Shuhda circle, in the centre of Nablus. I woke up and heard the soldiers saying through loudspeakers "No walking on the streets; a danger to your life" and I heard sounds of sporadic explosions. In a couple of minutes, my aunt Neda' woke up, as well as my siblings and we all headed to the other part of the house, my parents'. We all gathered in the bedroom and started looking out the windows to watch the movement of the Israeli army. I saw a number of armed soldiers dressed in dark green uniforms and big caps. After an hour and a half of being inside the room, I saw the soldiers breaking down some doors in the neighbourhood using iron tools and hammers. It was not dark. When I saw them, I retreated to the room and joined my aunt and my siblings, whereas my parents were outside the room next to the kitchen door.

At around 8:00 am, the armed soldiers, dressed in dark green uniforms; the Israeli army uniform, stormed our house by climbing the stairs to the second floor. When the soldiers reached the main entrance to the second part of the house, my mother was standing by the door. They ordered her to get all of us out of the room. My mother called us and asked us to leave the room. We all did and went to the hall. The unmasked soldiers spoke with my father in Hebrew. We, accompanied by some soldiers, then headed to my grandparents' room and stayed there for like 10 minutes. Ten minutes later, they took us back to the 25-square-metre bedroom of my parents, which has two windows overlook al-Ato'ut neighbourhood, and held us for half an hour. The soldiers left the room and sat on the doorsteps. Then they all left the house. My mother and I went out to the hall. While I was standing there, I heard some strong knocks on the neighbouring house. My sister and I went to our room and looked from the northern window to see soldiers knocking on the doors of our neighbours' house. In the meantime, soldiers were coming and leaving our

house. They plugged the digging machine and started digging. However, I was not able to see them actually digging, but I heard sounds of digging till around 3:00 pm.

At around 3:00 pm, the soldiers, 50 of them, came back and searched the house thoroughly. They spoken with my father in Hebrew and asked him to get us all out and then forced us to go to my room. We all went to my room, whereas my grandparents were allowed to go to their room. The soldiers did not enter the room. Instead, some of them stayed in the hall, and the rest went into my parents' room. At around 7:30 pm, my parents went to the kitchen in the other side of the house to fix dinner for us, after my father had spoken with the soldiers. The room door was open and one of the soldiers was standing there.

Fifteen minutes later, my mother came back with the food thinking that my father had beaten her to the room. We did not know where he was. She went out to the hall and called his name. Afterwards, she came back saying that the soldiers had taken my father out of the house to interrogate him. We sat to eat dinner where everything was quite normal and the soldiers were outside the room. By the time we finished our meal, my father came back and told us that he had been taken away for interrogation. My mother and aunt went back to the kitchen to fix him something to eat and my brother Hamza followed them.

While we were in the room, unmasked armed soldier wearing a purple T-shirt and military trousers entered the room and called my father's name. My father responded to him and left the room. I tried to look but the soldier screamed at me "Go inside." 15 minutes later, the same soldier pointed at my sister Hanan and I to go outside the room. We did as my father entered the room. We went out to the hall and saw many soldiers there, apart from those standing by the room door. A few minutes later, my mother walked out of my grandparents' room. I later knew that she was not allowed to come back to my room after she had left it to prepare dinner for my father. My mother then took us inside my grandparents' room. The interrogator came into the room and screamed "Jihan" and he was nervous. He gripped my shoulder and took me to the hall. He began interrogating me in Hebrew and there was another soldier doing the interpretation. He asked me "Where are the fighters?" "Where are the tunnels?" threatening me to put me in jail. He brought handcuffs and threatened me to handcuff my hands. He actually tried handcuffing me but I pulled my hands back. He asked me so many questions that I had to give up. I told him about this house located to the south, where some young men come there once in a while; something known to the locals. The multi-floor house had been abandoned for years and is adjacent to some houses in the neighbourhood. I visited the house when it was inhabited several years ago where its residents were known to us and we used to exchange visits.

It was around 8:30 when the integrator asked me to accompany them to show them the house; something I did not oppose. I walked in front of the soldiers who were fully prepared. The area was quiet and no one was there. The investigator and a number of soldiers, I do not know how many, followed me. The targeted house was 50m away, south to our house. When I pointed at the house, two soldiers brought me back to my house without uttering single word. I enter into my parents' room to find it full of soldiers. Some of them were lying on the bed, some of them sitting on the floor, and one soldier was standing behind me. None of the soldiers said a word except one soldier asked me about my name. I replied I am Jihan. They had no female soldier and none of them spoke with each other or did any move.

Ten minutes later, the two soldiers who brought me back to the house walked into the room with another soldier. One of the soldiers spoke in Arabic and asked me to accompany him again to the abandoned house. I walked in front of the three soldiers and we all headed to the house. For the record, the house consists of three floors and only the third floor is abandoned, whereas people live in the first and second floor. When we reached the house, I saw a number of soldiers surrounding the house especially its entrance. While going up to the third floor, I saw several soldiers on the stairway. I learned later that they had a military barrack inside Jadallah's house. I also learned that the soldiers held Jadallah's family inside their house, as they did to us. None of the soldiers had climbed up to the third floor before.

The stairway to the third floor was dark; therefore the soldiers lit the lights on their weapons. I walked into the house where its entrance led directly to the kitchen. To the best of my knowledge, the kitchen has a door leads to the roof. The soldiers then headed to the roof and searched it. I asked them to take me back to my house but one of the soldiers said "Tell us first where the young men are," but I said I did not know any place rather this. Therefore, they held me for 10 minutes. Afterwards, they brought me back to the house and one of the soldiers said "Do not tell anyone that you came with us, do not tell anyone that we took you." Another soldier gave me a candy and a biscuit.

I reached the house and went up to my room accompanied by two soldiers. I was afraid and exhausted. I fell asleep. The next day, the soldiers pulled out from the region and of course out of our house.

Signed by: Jihan Nimer Shahir D'adush, on 24 March 2007

I agree to have this information published under my name.

ANNEX VII – Affidavit from 15-year-old boy used as a human shield by the Israeli army in Nablus in February 2007**Name of victim:** Ameen Ezz ad-Deen E'meira**Date of birth:** 11 February 1992**Date of incident:** 26 February 2007**Age of victim at incident:** 15**Location:** Haifa Street, Nablus**Class / School:** High School**Date affidavit was taken:** 20 March 2007**Affidavit collected by:** DCI/PS

On Monday, 26 February 2007, at about 5:00 am, I was woken up by sounds of intensive gunfire and sound bombs. However, I stayed in bed. I was asleep in my room in my house located in Tulkarm-Nablus Street, known by Haifa Street, 20 metres away from as-Salam Street. I also heard sounds of engines. I immediately got up and turned on the TV to watch the al-Afak local channel. I read on the news ticker that the Israeli army had invaded the city of Nablus. A few minutes later, I heard knocking on the door of our house. My mother went and opened the door. She moved back when she saw the Israeli soldiers at the door, as she explained to us later. One of the soldiers threw an object, and she thought it was a stone. Within seconds, the object exploded, creating a deafening sound. I left the room and headed towards the kitchen, five metres away from the door of the house. Our house is located on the second floor with stairs leading to the main street. My mother then called us and asked us to leave the house. We left the house, my half brother Ahmad (27), his wife (22), his daughters Shahad (2) and Wa'd (1), my brother Arafa (12), my sister Manal (17), my grandmother (75) and I.

We reached the balcony, adjacent to the main entrance of the house. One of the soldiers, wearing a khaki uniform and a helmet, and carrying a weapon, ordered me to lift up my shirt. I did so. He then asked me to approach him. When I approached him, he grabbed my hands and pushed me towards another soldier, who pushed me again towards another one and so on. There was about 12 soldiers who kept pushing me around. Their faces were painted. They did the same thing to Arafa and Ahmad. Then the soldiers gathered us on the main street, and forced us to walk ahead of them at gunpoint. They herded us to al-Qawsin's house, adjacent to our house on the west.

When we reached the neighbours' house, we found a number of soldiers were already there. The Israeli soldiers had broken into the neighbours' house before they came to ours. The soldiers were holding the 11 family members, 7 of them were children, in the living room. The living room was a large room, about 40 square metres. It had a set of couches on one side and one couch on another side. It had no bathroom. All the family members were sitting on the couches,

and we were ordered to sit in the other corner of the room. Some of the soldiers were in the room where we were detained, and a number of them were stationed at the entrance of the room.

A few minutes later, one of the soldiers pointed at my sister Manal and asked her to go to him. She was absent for some five to 10 minutes, and then returned but we did not know what was going on in there. They called my brother Arafa and he was gone for five to 10 minutes and then returned. I did not speak to him and I did not know what had happened to him either. After that, the soldiers called my other brother Ahmad. They took him to the kitchen and began interrogating him loudly. They asked him about my brother Amr while slapping him across the face several times. Afterwards, they brought him back to the room while slapping him, and forced him to sit alone in one corner. They then called my mother and interrogated her for about 10 minutes. Once again, they called Manal and interrogated her. I learned later that she gave the same answer given by my mother.

The soldiers called me again and pointed at the house located on the east side of our house. I said it was my paternal uncle's house. They asked me to walk in front of them. Four of them followed me with their weapons loaded and ready to shoot. I was neither blindfolded nor handcuffed. After walking 10 metres away from the living room towards the stairway of our house, they ordered me to go to my uncle's house and ask them to leave the house. I headed to my uncle's house, whereas the soldiers stood on the stairway. I knocked on the door and asked everybody inside to leave the house. They all came out and there were six of them; Muhammad, Sameh, their mother, their sister and their two nieces.

The soldiers began searching Muhammad and Sameh and then we all headed back to the place in which we were held, 20 metres away. The street was full of military vehicles. We all, 26 people including 14 children, were detained in the living room of al-Qawsin's house. We were not allowed to go to the bathroom and we were denied access to food. However, they allowed us to drink some water; one of the al-Qawsin's daughters was allowed to bring her mother some water. Thirty minutes later, one of the soldiers called me. Judging from the orders he gave to the soldiers, I believe he was an officer. His uniform did not indicate any rank difference, though. In broken Arabic, he ordered me to go into the kitchen and asked me about my brother Amr. I replied by saying I did not know; a reply that earned me some slaps across the face. He then brought me back to the living room. I cannot recall who was next to being called for interrogation. Anyway, I learned later, after the soldiers pulled out from the area, that they took my brother Arafa to our house, ordering him to open the wardrobe and brought him back.

Once again the soldiers called me and ordered me to accompany them to my uncle's house. There were 12 of them carrying weapons and fully prepared. When we reached the entrance of the house, they asked me to open the door and walk into the house. It was difficult for me to open the door because I could not see it clearly. The soldiers had thrown a smoke bomb in the place; a practice followed by the soldiers when they raid houses in order to suffocate people

inside. However, I did manage to open the door and they walked behind me. Whenever there was a door, the soldiers would ask me to open it, walk into the room, and then start shooting after asking me to step aside. Sometimes they would ask me to go to a specific corner before starting to shoot. They fired about eight bullets inside the house and one or two towards the main entrance of the house. We spend about half an hour inside the house where the soldiers searched the whole place.

The soldiers then asked me to walk in front of them towards our house. This time I was terrified because the soldiers were shooting and forcing me to walk in front of them towards our house 20 metres away from as-Salam mosque. After searching our house, they brought me back to the al-Qawsin's house. Five minutes later, they called me again and asked me to go back to my uncle's house and open its windows. Four soldiers were walking behind me ready to shoot. When we reached the house, the four soldiers stood on the stairway and asked me to go inside and open the windows. I did the job, and then left the house and sat for a while on the stairway. One of the soldiers asked me if I had opened all the windows and I replied yes. We spent five minutes there and they brought me back to the confinement room of al-Qawsin's house. After a while, they called my cousin Sameh, who had followed us with his brother Muhammad minutes after we were forced to leave the house. He was gone for about 15 minutes.

The soldiers asked about our identification cards, but my brother Ahmad had left his identification card at our house. Ahmad asked one of the soldiers to let me go and fetch it. The soldier agreed. Therefore, I headed to the house without an escort, brought Ahmad's ID and handed over to the security officer. A couple of minutes later, I saw the security officer handing back the ID to Ahmad. Then I saw the soldiers handcuffing my cousins Muhammad and Sameh and Basim, one of the al-Qawsin's, and putting them inside one of the jeeps. They then pulled out of the area.

The Israeli incursion started at 5:00 am and lasted until 7:30 am. The Israeli soldiers forced me to walk in front of them three times; the first time to my uncle's house, the second time to our house to search it, and the last time to open my uncle's house windows. They shot some bullets while walking behind me. I was interrogated with and slapped on the face five times. In addition to that, the security officer threatened me to shoot me if I had not confessed.

Signed by: Ameer Ezz ad-Deen E'meira, on 20 March 2007

I agree to have this information published under my name.

ANNEX VIII – Affidavit from 14-year-old boy used as a human shield by the Israeli army in Nablus in April 2007

Name of victim: Ismail Ayman Ismail Al-Masri

Date of birth: 22 June 1992

Date of incident: 11 April 2007

Age of victim at incident: 14

Location: Nablus, Balata Refugee Camp

Place of residence: Nablus, Balata Refugee Camp

Occupation: Mechanic

Affidavit taken on: 7 May 2007

Affidavit collected by: DCI/PS

On Wednesday, 11 April 2007, at about 8:30 am, Oday from the neighbouring mechanic shop and I were sitting in front of his shop, located on Kafr Qallil-Nablus Street. At around 10:30 am, Israeli military jeeps with three bulldozers passed us and headed towards Kafr Qallil village. I recognised them as Israeli bulldozers by their dark green colour.

Around 10 jeeps parked near the store. Boys from Balata Camp and Kafr Qallil started throwing stones at the jeeps. The soldiers responded by firing sound bombs, tear gas bombs and rubber bullets. Oday and I were watching what was going on. One of the hummer jeeps parked 15 metres away from us. I saw one like that on TV. A soldier, sitting directly behind the jeep driver, opened the door without stepping out and then called Oday in Hebrew by saying “Bo” which means “Come here”.

Oday headed towards the soldier, as I ran into the building adjacent to the shop. Five minutes later, Oday came to me and asked me to accompany him because the soldier asked him to do so. Therefore, I headed to the building owner, a man in his forties and asked him to escort us. He did come down with us to meet the soldiers. The soldiers ordered us to uncover our feet and abdomens, to lift our hands up in the air and turn around ourselves. They then asked us to approach them.

The soldier sitting behind the driver gripped me from my shirt. The doorman at that point warned me that a stone, thrown by boys from east, was heading towards me. Therefore, I tipped the soldier away from me to avoid the stone. The soldier then placed the butt of his M16 on my left leg and then its barrel at my abdomen, while Oday was being slapped across his face by the jeep commander sitting on the front seat next to the driver. He was slapping him, punching him on the face, the abdomen, and the back, and telling him that he had seen him throwing stones at the jeeps. Oday denied this, saying he was in his shop. After beating Oday, the jeep commander

ordered me to approach him. After I did, he asked me why I was throwing stones at the jeeps, and I replied I was at the shop doing my job. At that point, a blond man with a small camera approached the soldiers and began screaming at them in English. The soldiers were screaming back at him. I could not figure out why. Afterwards, the soldiers asked the photographer to move back. He moved about 30 metres away while taking photos of us.

The soldiers told Oday and I to sit on the bonnet of the jeep, which we did. Some of the boys stopped throwing stones at the jeeps because they saw us. After about 15 minutes, the jeep captain asked us to “Go and tell those boys to stop throwing stones and then come back to us”. While pretending to do so, we ran to another street and headed to our second shop, 300 metres south from where we were. We stayed there until the situation had calmed and then we went back to our houses.

Signed by: Ismail Ayman Ismail Al-Masri, on 7 May 2007

I agree to have this information published under my name.

ANNEX IX – Affidavit from 15-year-old boy used as a human shield by the Israeli army in Nablus in April 2007

Name of victim: Oday Najee Mohammad Abu Ghneim

Date of birth: 20 July 1991

Date of incident: 11 April 2007

Age of victim at incident: 15

Location: Nablus, Balata Refugee Camp

Place of residence: Nablus, Kafr Qallil

Occupation: Mechanic

Affidavit taken on: 7 May 2007

Affidavit collected by: DCI/PS

On Wednesday, 11 April 2007, at about 8:30 am, I arrived at Balata Refugee Camp and opened the motor mechanics shop where I am an employed. It is owned by my paternal uncle. After I opened the shop, business was quiet, so I called Ismail, my friend and neighbour of the shop, to come into the shop and talk to me.

At around 10:30 am we were sitting in the shop and heard very loud sounds of vehicle engines. Ismail asked me to go out and see what was going on, so I went out of the shop and saw an Israeli military jeep heading towards Kafr Qallil village on a steep uphill road. I went back inside the shop. After about five minutes, several Israeli military jeeps stormed the area surrounding the shop. Some of the jeeps headed towards the village and some of them stopped outside the shop. There were about five jeeps outside the shop. I was able to recognise them as Israeli military jeeps because they were a light khaki green colour, the colour of the Israeli jeeps which I had seen before.

At this moment, we came out of the shop and sat on some stones in front of the shop, watching the jeeps for about 10 minutes. One of the jeeps parked about 10 metres away from us. A soldier, sitting behind the jeep driver called us by saying in Hebrew “Bo” which means “Come here”.

Ismail ran into the building where the shop was located, whereas I lifted my hands up in the air and headed towards the jeep. When I was about 5 metres closer, the soldier asked me to uncover my abdomen, calves and legs. They then asked me to turn around and I did so. The soldier then approached me and punched me in the face. He told me to go and get the boy who was with me. I went in the building and called Ismail and Abu Jaber, the owner of the building.

Ismail and Abu Jaber came out of the building and the three of us approached the soldier. When we approached and were about 10 metres away from the same jeep, many soldiers started to call us to come closer to them. The soldier sitting next to the jeep driver said to me “*Come here*”. I

went to him. When I approached him, he slapped me across my face and my hands. The soldier was screaming at me in Hebrew at the same time, which I did not understand.

There were boys throwing stones at the jeeps from the camp direction and one of the stones hit me on my right ankle. I told the soldier that a stone had hit my leg but the soldier kept hitting me. Another soldier was prodding his rifle into Ismail's leg. The soldier was short, blond, and had blue eyes and was unshaven. He was wearing a military uniform. He slapped me for about 10 minutes. He then turned to Ismail and told him to come to him.

At this moment, a foreign photographer started screaming at the soldiers in English. The soldiers were screaming back at him. This photographer was about 10 metres away. The soldier that was hitting me pointed his rifle at the photographer. The photographer walked back but was taking photos at the same time.

The soldier ordered us to sit on the bonnet of the jeep. We sat on the bonnet of the jeep. Some of the boys stopped throwing stones at the jeeps. The boys throwing stones knew us, especially Ismail because he is from Balata. We sat on the jeep for about 10 minutes. When we were sitting on the jeep, the soldier said that if the front windscreen breaks, we will be imprisoned and will have to pay for the damage.

After 10 minutes, the soldier said to us "*Go and tell those boys to stop throwing stones*". We ran to the boys and the soldiers threw tear gas at us and the boys who had been throwing stones. We ran to Ismail's father's shop which was about 400 metres south from where we were. We stayed there for about half an hour and then left with a neighbour to go home.

Signed by: Oday Najee Mohammad Abu Ghneim, on 7 May 2007

I agree to have this information published under my name.

ANNEX X – Affidavit from adult used as a human shield by the Israeli army in al-Bireh in February 2007

Name of victim: Wisam Ya'qoub Mousa Rafidi

Date of birth: 23 December 1959

Affidavit collected by: Al-Haq

After having been warned to tell the truth and nothing but the truth or else I shall be subjected to penal action, I, the undersigned Wisam Ya'qoub Mousa Rafidi, of Palestinian nationality, holder of ID No. 954440160, born on 23 December 1959, an employee and a resident of al-Bireh city, Ramallah Governorate, would like to declare the following:

At approximately 1:00 am on Thursday, 8 February 2007, as I woke up to use the toilet, I heard a loud explosion nearby. I went to the western window of my bedroom, from where I saw three Israeli jeeps belonging to the regular army. My wife Roula was woken by the sound of the explosions.

My apartment is in a two-storey building located to the north of al-Bireh city. Each storey contains two apartments. Mine is located on the western side of the second storey. 'Izz- al-Din al-Qassam is located to the west of my apartment, where al-Tahouna café and the Palestine International Bank are located. Al-Nahda Street is located to the south of my apartment.

My daughter Anmar, who is eight years old, woke up and asked me about the explosions. I told her that Israeli soldiers had caused them. I saw a great deal of fear and tension in her eyes. I have already been arrested in my home, with the result that Anmar connects the presence of Israeli soldiers near our house with the loss of her father. Whenever I looked out of a window I saw Israeli military jeeps.

My other daughter Dara, who is six and a half-years-old, also woke up terrified and trembling. She stayed close to her mother. Roughly 15 minutes after I had woken up, the Israeli forces, using loudspeakers, called upon the occupants of the various apartments in broken Arabic to exit the building. The call was repeated several times. After this, I heard someone knocking on my door. I opened the door to find Maysa', the daughter of my nephew Joni, who lives in the apartment next to mine.

Maysa' told me that the soldiers were calling us and that we must leave the house. Roula decided to go and speak with the Israeli soldiers. While she was gone, I dressed my daughters in heavy clothes that would keep them warm, as it was very cold outside. As I dressed them, I tried to reassure them. I could sense the fear on their faces and in their voices. I told them not to be scared. "*We are strong*" I said, "*and the Israelis are not scary*".

Ten minutes after Roula left, we went down to the road. When I arrived, I saw that there were three military jeeps. One contained a soldier who was wearing a black mask made of wool. To the east of the building, I saw three soldiers. They were standing directly behind a wall. I could only see their helmets and guns. Roula was standing five metres away from me. The masked soldier spoke to me and told me to send the girls to their mother.

I sent my daughters to my wife and went back towards the soldier. The soldier ordered me to lift up the clothes on my upper body and to take off my pants. Then, he handed me transparent plastic overalls and told me to go behind the jeep, take off my remaining clothes, and put them on. I did what he asked me to do. Then, the soldiers put me in a military jeep and took me to al-Tahuna café, which is close to my house. There, I found Roula and the two girls. I kissed them and attempted to reassure them. This was important, considering that they were being guarded by soldiers in an open building that was still under construction.

The soldiers tied my hands behind my back with plastic cuffs. They did this in full view of my two girls and my wife. I was left there for approximately fifteen minutes. Then, a number of soldiers arrived and took me away again. I believed that they were going to arrest me. I saw my daughters trying not to cry or to scream. The soldiers would not even allow me to bid them farewell.

The soldiers took me to the yard of the building, where the military jeeps were parked. One of the soldiers was wearing the uniform of the regular army. He approached me and asked, "*Who resides in this apartment?*" He then pointed to the eastern apartment on the first floor. I replied that a man in his mid-fifties, named Abu-Anas, lived there. He had rented the house eight days ago. As for the apartment next to it, a western family resides there. They live in the USA but their son Louay, who is 26 years old, sleeps there. He usually comes home very late or sometimes not at all.

The soldier then informed me that they wanted Abu-Anas. I suggested that they call him and ask him to come outside. Then, he asked me for the keys of Abu-Anas' apartment. I told him that I did not have a key. The soldier asked me to open the door to Abu-Anas' apartment, warning me, "*There is a bulldozer that is waiting to receive orders regarding the demolition of the whole building, so you better open the apartment.*" I stood at the door and called upon Abu-Anas several times. I told him to open the door, and that he should not be scared to come outside. There was no reply from inside the apartment.

The doors were locked and I continued shouting. Also, the soldiers were calling upon anyone still inside the apartments to come outside. There was no movement in any of the apartments. I told the soldier that there was no one inside. However, the soldier replied, "*Should I bring the bulldozer and destroy the whole building over the heads of its residents? Either you open the door or we demolish the building.*"

Since the door is made of iron and is very thick, I had to break the glass using my hands, injuring myself in the process. Then, the soldier asked me to go inside the apartment, turn on the lights and ask anyone inside to surrender. I did everything that he asked me to do but found no one inside. Then, I went back outside to the soldier. My hands were bleeding, and he washed them with water and applied a plaster.

The masked soldier, whom the other soldiers referred to as Rjoub, told me, "*There is someone inside and you have to bring him out.*" I assured him that there was nobody inside. Nonetheless, he sent huge police dogs to search inside. They returned without finding anyone. Then, the soldiers brought a remote controlled machine equipped with a camera. It was one metre in width and one and a half metres in height.

After sending the machine inside the house, one of the soldiers called me and asked me to go back inside because one of the doors inside the apartment was closed. I entered and found that the bathroom door was closed. The machine did not find anyone in Abu-Anas' apartment. Rjoub told me, "*If 'Abu-Anas is not here, we will bombard the house with rockets.*" I told him that there was no one in the western flat and that it is very hard to open the door to that apartment since it is very thick and made of iron. I also said that if Louay was inside, he would have opened the door.

Meanwhile, I saw Joni wearing the same type of overalls I was wearing. He was taken to the second floor, where both our apartments are located. He lives with his mother, wife and baby girl, who is three-years-old. The machine was with him. Rjoub told me to get into one of the jeeps, which I did. I saw the soldiers taking missiles from a bag on the floor of the jeep. These missiles looked like copper bullets. They were approximately 60 centimetres in length and 10 centimetres in diameter. Soon after, Joni was placed in the jeep with me. As I recall, the soldiers took four of these missiles. According to the soldiers, they were 'lao rockets'.

At approximately 2:45 am, the soldiers took Joni and I to the one of the gardens that belongs to the houses located west of my house. My house was approximately 20 metres away and was guarded by soldiers. There were jeeps positioned in the street the whole time. After approximately one hour had passed, soldiers arrived and took Joni and me to Abu-Anas' apartment. I saw 30 soldiers when we entered the apartment. One of the soldiers pointed me out to a captain who had several stars on his shoulder. The soldier pointed to me and said "*This is Wisam.*" Then, they returned us to the garden where we had been held previously. From here I could see the second floor of my house but not the first floor.

Fifteen minutes later, the soldiers came back and took Joni away. I was left there alone. Throughout my time there, I continually heard the sound of bullets, bombs and destruction. I also saw my house fully lit, even though I had turned the lights off before leaving with my daughters. At approximately 5:50 am, the soldiers came and placed me in a closed military vehicle, which I assume is generally used for transferring soldiers since there were several seats inside it. When the soldier saw me sitting on the seat closest to the back door, he told me to sit on the seat furthest back.

I sat there for only five minutes. Then, the soldiers released me and I saw a number of Israeli military jeeps belonging to the regular army leaving the area. When I entered my house, I found massive destruction. Dozens of bullets had been randomly fired inside my house. The bullets had penetrated the walls and the furniture, damaging everything. There were bullet holes in the clothes that were hanging in my daughters' wardrobes. Even my daughters' mattresses had been shot. In addition to all this, a bullet had damaged one of the main water pipes in the bathroom near my daughters' bedroom. The house was flooded with water and all the carpets were damaged.

Ten minutes after I returned home, my wife and two daughters entered the apartment. Anmar looked very sad when she saw her room. Dara asked, "*Why did the Israelis do this?*" Roula was shocked when she saw all the contents of the house thrown everywhere. All the book shelves in my special library had been thrown to the ground. Each one of us was extremely upset and sad. My younger daughter Dara said she would not sleep on a mattress full of bullet holes. Anmar, who was getting ready to go to the house of a friend of ours until our house was reorganised, was looking for clothes to wear. She told her mother, "*Look, all my clothes have holes. I have no proper clothes to wear. The Israelis destroyed them all.*"

Several friends, relatives and members of the Palestinian security forces arrived. I went to Abu-Anas' apartment, which I had rented to him fully furnished. The glass in the windows was completely broken, and the two sets of furniture had been badly damaged with a knife. The southern bedroom appeared to have been hit by a rocket because it was completely burned and there was a hole in the wall. There were bullet holes in all of the bedroom's walls. The other bedroom was in a similar condition. The doors of the apartment were broken and thrown on the ground. All the dressers were destroyed and thrown on the ground. Even the washing machine's door was broken. The smell of bullets and burning was everywhere. All the furniture was destroyed. In addition to this, when I entered the western apartment, I found the traces of two rockets and a completely burned bedroom. The whole place looked as if an earthquake had hit it a few seconds earlier.

This is my declaration and hereby I sign, 2 February 2007.

Signature: Wisam Rafidi

Name not withheld

ANNEX XI – List of cases of human shields documented by Al-Haq, B'Tselem and Defence for Children International-Palestine Section in 2007

Children

26/02/07 - Ameer E'meira (DCI/PS, B'Tselem)
28/02/07 - Jihan Nimer Shaher Da'doush (Al-Haq, DCI/PS, B'Tselem)
05/04/07 - Anas al-Bayed (B'Tselem)
11/04/07 - Ismail al-Masri (DCI/PS)
11/04/07 - Oday Abu Ghneim (DCI/PS)
12/07/07 - Rana Mufid (B'Tselem)

Adults

08/02/07 - Wisam Rafidi (Al-Haq)
13/02/07 - Muhammad Abu 'Ata (B'Tselem)
19/02/07 - Ibrahim an-Natsha (B'Tselem)
10/03/07 - Tal'aat Jaradat (B'Tselem)
15/05/07 - Maged Abd el-Aziz (B'Tselem)
29/05/07 - 'Aamer Sarawi (B'Tselem)
28/06/07 - Maamun a-Sfadi and Salh a-Sfadi (B'Tselem)
18/09/07 - Ayman Waked (B'Tselem)
16/10/07 - Hakem Sbayeh (B'Tselem)