

Children in Detention

The Justice in Palestine and Israel (JPI) Community proposes that the Alliance join with other U.S. religious communities and support the rights of Palestinian children and children at the U.S.-Mexico border. As background for this proposal, our Community points to the following:

- Numerous human rights reports, including Human Rights Watch and UNICEF, have documented the prevalence of torture and ill treatment of Palestinian children. In addition, the U.S. State department's annual reports have consistently found the prevalence of this ill treatment, torture and the denial of fair trails in the Israeli military detention system.
- UNICEF reported in 2013 that the "ill treatment of children who come in contact with the military detention system appears to be widespread, systematic, and institutionalized throughout the process". The JPI Community also notes that Palestinian children are separated from their families. A recent report found that in 2018, 54 Palestinian children were killed, and 900 were detained.
- The Alliance of Baptists has spoken out against the atrocious US policy of separating children from their families at the US border. This immoral practice has led to hundreds of children and youth being torn from their families. The recent [Inspector General Report of HHS](#) establishes that this immoral practice started in 2017, well before it came to light in the summer of 2018. That report also establishes that a large number of children remain separated from their families and are still in U.S. detention.
- The JPI Community notes many similarities between families and children on our southern border and families and children in Palestine.
 - Families in Central America form and participate in Migrant Caravans; families and children in Palestine form and participate in the Great March of Return. In both cases, US- policies have caused great hardship and impacted the peoples, including children. Families in both Central America and in Palestine have joined movements of nonviolent protest. In one place, the movement of people is to flee great hardship in their native land while in another place, the movement of people is to reclaim native land from occupation.
 - At the U.S. border, children are asked to sign documents in English, which is not their native language and in Palestine and Israel, children are asked to sign documents in Hebrew, which is not their native language.

In response, the Alliance of Baptists:

- 1) Calls on our individual members and Alliance of Baptist congregations to learn about the plight of children in Palestine-Israel and the plight of children at the US-Mexico border;
- 2) Calls on the United States Senate to join with 194 other nations in ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular Articles 37 and 40 of the Convention governing the treatment of children held in detention;
- 3) Calls on the State of Israel and the U.S. government to guarantee basic due process rights and absolutely prohibit the separation of detained children from their parents and legal counselors;
- 4) Encourages continued partnership with ecumenical, interfaith and other non-governmental partners that advocate for the rights of children and those that provide educational, social, and psychological support for the children and families adversely affected

by the occupation in Israel and adversely affected by the humanitarian crisis at the US-Mexico border;

5) Encourages members and Alliance churches to advocate for federal legislation that will ensure that U.S. foreign assistance funds do not support the military detention, interrogation, abuse, ill-treatment of children in Palestine or their separation from their families, and the U.S. domestic funds do not support the detention, interrogation, abuse, ill-treatment of children at the US-Mexico border or their separation from their families.