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3 ***Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children***
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5 *Submitted by The Israel/Palestine Task Force as vote on by a vote of 9 Aye, 0 Oppose, 0 Abstain*

6 *Contact person: Yvonne Turner*

7 *Co-Sponsored by the Advocacy and Justice Committee by a vote of 9 Aye, 0 Oppose, 0 Abstain*

8 *Fiscal Impact: NONE*
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10 **Background**
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12 Israel has the dubious distinction of being the only country in the world that systematically prosecutes
13 between 500 and 700 children each year in military courts that lack fundamental fair trial rights and
14 protections.

15 An estimated 10,000 Palestinian children have been detained by Israeli security forces and prosecuted
16 in the Israeli military court system since 2000. Independent monitors such as [Human Rights Watch](#)
17 [have documented](#) that these children are subject to abuse and, in some cases, torture — specifically
18 citing the use of chokeholds, beatings, and coercive interrogation on children between the ages of 11
19 and 15.

20 In addition, the [United Nations Children’s Fund \(UNICEF\) found](#) that Palestinian children are frequently
21 held for extended periods without access to either their parents or attorneys. The United States
22 Department of State and the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child have also raised
23 serious concerns about the mistreatment of Palestinian children in Israeli military custody.

24 This resolution endorses H.R. 4391 [Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military Detention of](#)
25 [Palestinian Children Act](#), a bill currently before the U.S. House of Representatives. This endorsement
26 effectively builds on prior Annual Conference resolutions. (*2015 item #33 Israeli Military Detention: No*
27 *Way to Treat a Child and 2017 item #5 Advocating for the Rights of Children Living Under Israeli*
28 *Military Occupation*)

29 The *Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children Act* seeks to
30 ensure that US taxpayer funds are not being used to support the detention of Palestinian children by
31 Israeli forces in a military detention system where ill-treatment is widespread and institutionalized; or
32 their prosecution in a military court system that has been found to lack basic fair trial protections and
33 guarantees.

34 The *Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children Act* has been
35 endorsed by the American Friends Service Committee, Amnesty International USA, Arab American
36 Institute, Center for Constitutional Rights, [Church World Service](#), Churches for Middle East Peace,
37 Defense for Children International - Palestine, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Global
38 Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ, Jewish Voice for
39 Peace, Mennonite Central Committee, Presbyterian Church (USA), the U.S. Campaign for Palestinian

40 Rights, United Methodists for Kairos Response (UMKR), and United Methodist General Board of Church
41 and Society.

42 Regardless of guilt or innocence, children in conflict with the law are entitled to special protections and
43 all due process rights under international human rights law and international humanitarian law.
44 The *Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children Act* seeks to
45 ensure these protections and deserves our endorsement and support.

46 **THIS RESOLUTION:**

47 **ENDORSES H.R.4391 the *Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian***
48 ***Children Act***, and **REQUESTS** the Conference Secretary to communicate this endorsement to the
49 Members of Congress within the Conference boundaries, urging them to sign on and support this
50 legislation, and

51 **CALLS ON** Conference members to inform their congregations about this endorsement and to consider
52 contacting their own members of Congress to express their support, and

53 **ENCOURAGES** Conference congregations and individuals to learn about the plight of children in
54 Palestine and asks that the Israel/Palestine Tasks Force be a resource as well as a promotor of study
55 and advocacy for the rights of children living under Israeli Military Occupation.
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