



House of Commons
London
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Press Release – For immediate release

**Sarah Champion
Member of Parliament for Rotherham
5th January 2016**

EMBARGOED UNTIL 00:00, 6TH JANUARY

Rotherham MP demands UK Government establish a watch list for those carrying out war crimes against Palestinian children

On Wednesday, 6th January 2016, Sarah Champion MP will lead a Parliamentary debate on the illegal military detention, transfer and treatment of Palestinian children by Israel and make a series of demands, among them that the UK Government establish a watch list of those involved and make a commitment to arrest and prosecute them should they enter the UK.

Sarah will say:

"The issue of transferring detainees en masse from occupied territory is a standalone issue because it is a war crime... and after nearly half a century, it requires decisive action in accordance with our international legal obligations. The 4th Geneva Convention makes it clear that the UK has a positive legal obligation to search for persons accused of committing grave breaches and to ensure that if such persons enter the UK, they are arrested and prosecuted with all speed."

Sarah will also raise serious concerns about the treatment of Palestinian children at every stage of the Israeli criminal justice system, including reports of systemic abuse by Israeli authorities and the continued use of night raids on Palestinian homes in making arrests.

There are currently 407 12-17-year-olds held in Israeli prisons and figures released by Military Court Watch (MCW), an organisation of lawyers based in the region, show that the detention of children is at its highest since March 2009 and has increased by 138 per cent since September 2015.

Repeated reports have condemned the treatment, transfer and detention of children and adults in prisons held inside Israel. A UNICEF report in 2014 and later in 2015 made 38 recommendations, namely that: "In accordance with international law, all Palestinian children detained in the Israeli military detention system shall be held in facilities located in the occupied Palestinian territory."

The policy of transferring Palestinian prisoners into Israel began in 1967. MCW report that in November 2015 59 per cent of children detainees were transferred to Israel, along with 86 per cent of adult prisoners.

The forcible transfer of people from occupied territories is considered a breach of Article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention and is now considered a war crime under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Article 8(2)(a)(vii).

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

MCW Palestinian 'security' prisoner figures -

<http://www.militarycourtwatch.org/page.php?id=J5V0bQevz8a19020AWwFbv7lxv2>

UNICEF updated report (Feb 2015) Children in Israeli Military Detention -

[http://www.unicef.org/oPt/Children_in_Israeli_Military_Detention -](http://www.unicef.org/oPt/Children_in_Israeli_Military_Detention_-_Observations_and_Recommendations_-_Bulletin_No._2_-_February_2015.pdf)

[_Observations and Recommendations - Bulletin No. 2 - February 2015.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/oPt/Children_in_Israeli_Military_Detention_-_Observations_and_Recommendations_-_Bulletin_No._2_-_February_2015.pdf)

Sarah Champion MP on Israel-Palestine

Gaza Is a Horrific Humanitarian Disaster That We Cannot Allow to Continue (29/9/2015) -

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/sarah-champion/gaza-palestine_b_8190456.html

How Israeli Settlements Are Impacting the Palestinians Rightfully Living There (2/10/2015) -

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/sarah-champion/palestine-israel-gaza_b_8234082.html

What Can We Personally Do to Get Lasting Peace Between Palestine and Israel?

(21/10/2015) - [http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/sarah-champion/palestine-israel-](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/sarah-champion/palestine-israel-peace_b_8280898.html)

[peace_b_8280898.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/sarah-champion/palestine-israel-peace_b_8280898.html)