

Ambassador Ziv Nevo Kulman
Embassy of Israel, Stockholm

Your Excellency,

Each year the Israeli military detains and prosecutes around 500–700 Palestinian children. 48 Palestinian children (31 in West Bank and 17 in Gaza) were killed by Israeli weapons during 2022 (until November 9).

Please read this story told by a grandmother in the West Bank city Ramallah. The grandmother Samia Khoury, 89 years old is well known to many Christians in Sweden, as she was a founding member of Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Centre.

“In the early hours of this morning (October 18, 2022) the Israeli occupation forces, consisting of a troop of around 12 persons of army and secret service, stormed my son's house after breaking the gate at the entrance of the compound in which we all live, so as to arrest his younger son Shadi Khoury, a sixteen-year-old child, a student at the Quakers Friends School in Ramallah. They beat him until he was bleeding all over the room and along the path on the way out of the house dragging him barefoot and blindfolded not allowing the parents to see where the blood was coming from. Shadi was taken to the interrogation section in the police compound called the Russian compound.

Shadi, a child, is being “interrogated” without the presence of his parents or a lawyer, a tactic used systematically to terrorize children into submission, and ultimately using their own words to incriminate them.

Shadi is a case among so many Palestinian children that are being harassed, tortured and imprisoned for no reason other than being a Palestinian seeking to live in dignity and freedom in their own country.

As an 89-year-old grandmother who has lived through the Nakba, the 1967 war, the first and second intifadas, I continue to ask you my friends: Until when will this grave injustice go on?”

My request with this message is that the Israeli Government should

- respect the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Geneva Conventions,
- end the military violence against children and
- immediately release Shadi Khoury and all other unlawfully detained Palestinian child prisoners.

Sincerely