

1 **Signatures:**

2 Members of the Holy Land Task Force: Carol Ekdahl-Garwood plus 4 others

3 Members of the Mercy and Justice Team: Rev. Kalaba Chali plus 4 others

4 Great Plains Laity and Clergy: Rev. Jose Miranda plus 14 others

5 **Submitted by:**

6 Carol Ekdahl-Garwood, Great Plains Conference Secretary of Global Ministries

7 Andrea Paret, Great Plains Peace with Justice Coordinator

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10 **RESOLUTION #9 - ADVOCATING FOR THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN LIVING UNDER ISRAELI**
 11 **OCCUPATION**

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13 **RATIONALE:** Because of Israel's military occupation of the West Bank, instability and violence define life for Palestinian
 14 children. We are concerned about the treatment of Palestinian children who are arrested and detained by Israeli forces
 15 and prosecuted in Israeli military courts denying basic fair trial rights. As Christians we feel responsible to take action on
 16 behalf of these children.

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18 **WHEREAS,** Israel is the only country in the world that systematically prosecutes children in military courts, with approximately
 19 500 to 700 children entering the Israeli military detention system in any given year, and

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21 **WHEREAS,** in a 2013 landmark study of this detention system, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
 22 (UNICEF) reported that ill-treatment in the Israeli military detention system is "widespread, systematic, and institutionalized
 23 throughout the process," and

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25 **WHEREAS,** despite sustained engagement by UNICEF and repeated calls to end night arrests and ill-treatment and torture
 26 of Palestinian children in Israeli military detention, Israeli authorities have persistently failed to implement practical changes
 27 to stop violence against child detainees, and

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29 **WHEREAS,** the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child has been ratified by every single member of the United Nations
 30 except the United States, and ratification by the United States could also underscore our nation's responsibility for humane
 31 treatment of all children,

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33 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church calls on the
 34 government of the United States to adhere to its own established law – in this case, the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act – by
 35 withholding military assistance from the State of Israel due to its practices of arrest and detention of Palestinian children, and

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37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this conference calls on the United States Senate to join with 196 other nations in ratifying
 38 the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child so as to bring stronger international pressure to bear on Israel
 39 to comply with the Convention's provisions, particularly those governing the treatment of children held in detention, and

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41 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the members of this 2018 annual conference take action by:

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1) Relaying these two calls to their congregations;

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2) Writing their members of Congress, as well as the President, Vice President, and Secretary of State, urging them
 44 to respond to our calls; and

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3) Encouraging and facilitating their congregations to do the same.

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46 **Implemented by:** Great Plains Conference Secretary and members of the Great Plains AC

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47 **Signatures:** Members of the Holy Land Task Force: Carol Ekdahl-Garwood plus 4 others

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48 Members of the Mercy and Justice Team: Rev. Kalaba Chali plus 4 others

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49 Great Plains Laity and Clergy: Rev. Jose Miranda plus 15 others

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50 **Submitted by:** Carol Ekdahl-Garwood, Great Plains Conference Secretary of Global Ministries

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51 Andrea Paret, Great Plains Peace with Justice Coordinator

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1. <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2016/children-behind-bars>

2. https://www.unicef.org/oPt/UNICEF_oPt_Children_in_Israeli_Military_Detention_Observations_and_Recommendations_-_6_March_2013.pdf

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3. https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-11&chapter=4&lang=en and

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4. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._ratification_of_the_Convention_on_the_Rights_of_the_Child