

99. I am deeply concerned by the continuing increase in the number of children detained by Israel and by the reports by children of physical violence directed against them during detention. I reiterate my call upon Israel to uphold international juvenile justice standards, including the use of detention as a last resort and for the shortest period of time, to end the administrative detention of children, and to prevent any violence and ill-treatment in detention.

100. I am deeply concerned by the increase in the killing and maiming of children by Palestinian Islamic Jihad's Al-Quds Brigades. I call upon all Palestinian armed groups to cease indiscriminate launching of rockets and mortars from densely populated areas in Gaza towards Israeli civilian population centres. I urge all Palestinian armed groups to protect children, including by preventing them from being exposed to the risk of violence and by abstaining from instrumentalizing them for political purposes. I reiterate my call upon armed groups to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children and to abide by their domestic and international legal obligations. I exhort Palestinian armed groups to better protect schools.

### **Lebanon**

101. The United Nations verified 67 grave violations against 66 children (63 boys, 3 girls).

102. The recruitment and use of 48 children (47 boys, 1 girl), between the ages of 11 and 17, by unidentified armed groups (45), Fath al-Islam (1), Jund Ansar Allah (1) and Hizbullah (1), was verified.

103. Children (2) were arrested and prosecuted under military jurisdiction on national security-related charges.

104. A total of 18 children (16 boys, 2 girls) were killed (6) and maimed (12) by unidentified perpetrators as a result of armed clashes (13) and explosive remnants of war (5).

105. One school was attacked by unidentified perpetrators in a Palestine refugee camp.

### *Developments and concerns*

106. I reiterate my call upon the Government to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

107. I welcome the increased application of the Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics by the Palestinian National Security Forces.

108. I am concerned about increased recruitment and use of children by armed groups, and urge them to immediately cease this practice.

109. I remain concerned about the detention of children on national security grounds. I reiterate my call upon the Government to release these children to civilian child protection actors and to treat them primarily as victims, employing detention only as a last resort and for the shortest period of time.

110. I am disturbed by continued armed clashes in Palestine refugee camps and their negative impact on children's access to education, including school closures in October and November 2022, and to health services.

### **Libya**

111. The United Nations verified 102 grave violations against 63 children (44 boys, 10 girls, 9 sex unknown), including 29 children who were victims of multiple