

Sabeel-Kairos

Taking Action for Palestine

Sabeel–Kairos Lenten Reflections

Week 4 | ‘Let the children come to me’

Reflection

Israel is the only country in the world that systematically prosecutes children in military courts - between 500 and 700 each year. The Israel Prison Service revealed that an average of 204 Palestinian children have been held in custody every month since 2012—*Palestine Solidarity Campaign*

In Palestine, oppression is something you can feel in the air. It is an experience which cannot be passed on to others by words. Palestinian children grow up in this indescribable world of anxiety, oppression and injustice.

We know that children as young as 12 are routinely taken from their homes at gunpoint in night-time raids by soldiers. We hear how these children are often blindfolded, bound and shackled. The horror of what will happen to these children does not truly unfold until they reach prison. They know this. In prison, these children are interrogated without a lawyer or relative being present. We know that children have been held in solitary confinement and forced to sign confessions (often in Hebrew - a language they do not understand).

Can we imagine our own children being subjected to these abuses and torture methods? Do we ignore the cries of these children held in captivity? Are we the jailer to these children by our own silence? Are there new ways we can help to fling open these prison doors?

Prayer

Mary, mother of Jesus - you saw your son led away by soldiers. Comfort the children of Palestine with your maternal love and pray with us today;

Father we pray this week for the children who are victims of abuse and imprisonment in Palestine. We ask you to give consolation to the families and to watch over your children. Give them patience and hope in their sufferings and bring them home again soon.

Jesus you said ‘*Let the children come to me*’ - we pray that children in prison today may be delivered from injustice and cruelty. Look in your compassion upon all those children who are alone and frightened today.

Come, Holy Spirit and fill us with your light - open our hearts and minds to inspire us. May we be your hands and feet in bringing your justice to the nations. Help us to hear the cries of your people and to come to their aid in new and effective ways.

We make our prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen



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