

# Israeli Army's Mistreatment of Palestinian Children: Australian TV Dares to Show the Real Occupation

By [Jonathan Cook](#)

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[jonathan-cook.net](http://jonathan-cook.net)

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#),  
[Oceania](#)

Theme: [Crimes against Humanity](#)

In-depth Report: [PALESTINE](#)

This Happened 10 Years Ago, February 12, 2014

*I never thought I would see it. A mainstream TV programme, this one made by Australian channel ABC, that shows the occupation in all its inhuman horror.*

**The 45-minute investigative film concerns the Israeli army's mistreatment of Palestinian children.** Along the way, it provides absolutely devastating evidence that the children's abuse is not some unfortunate byproduct of the occupation but the cornerstone of Israel's system of control and its related need to destroy the fabric of Palestinian society.

Omar Barghouti has spoken of Israelis' view of Palestinians as only "relatively human". Here that profound racism is on full show.

There are, of course, concessions to "balance" - in the hope of minimising the backlash from Israel - but they do nothing to dilute the power of the message.

This is brave film-making of the highest order.

It is an indication of quite how exceptional this film is that it has cornered Australia's foreign minister, Julie Bishop, into expressing her "[deep concern](#)". That's the same Bishop who last month doubted that the settlements in the West Bank were illegal.

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**If the video above is removed, you can also watch the film here:**

[www.abc.net.au/4corners/stories/2014/02/10/3939266.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/4corners/stories/2014/02/10/3939266.htm)

— See more at:  
<http://www.jonathan-cook.net/blog/2014-02-11/aussie-tv-dares-to-show-the-real-occupation/#sthash.i5YI7K0N.dpuf>

## Synopsis of ABC Australia TV program

The Israeli army is both respected and feared as a fighting force. But now the country's military is facing a backlash at home and abroad for its treatment of children in the West

Bank, occupied territory.

Coming up, a joint investigation by Four Corners and The Australian newspaper reveals evidence that shows the army is targeting Palestinian boys for arrest and detention. Reporter John Lyons travels to the West Bank to hear the story of children who claim they have been taken into custody, ruthlessly questioned and then allegedly forced to sign confessions before being taken to court for sentencing.

He meets Australian lawyer Gerard Horton, who's trying to help the boys who are arrested, and talks to senior Israeli officials to examine what's driving the army's strategy.

The program focuses on the stories of three boys. In two cases the army came for the children in the middle of the night, before taking them to unknown locations where they are questioned. A mother of one of the boys described the scene...

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