

15 April 2026

To: Khaled Quzmar, the General Director of Defense for Children International – Palestine (DCIP)

Dear Khaled,

Like all who care about justice for Palestinian children, we were utterly appalled when we learnt that DCI - Palestine has been forced to close after thirty five years of providing incredibly devoted service in support of children subjected to the most profound oppression and injustice imaginable.

We have been in awe of your professionalism and dedication over these years in documenting abuses against children by the Zionist courts, within the prison system and in the number of murders perpetrated against children by Zionist soldiers, settlers or police.

We know how much more difficult your mission has been since 2021 when the Zionist state designated DCI-P and five other NGO's as 'terrorist organisations' giving rise to far too little protest from the wider world. But you continued heroically with your courageous work in documenting abuses - including killing, imprisonment, torture, solitary confinement, withholding bodies from their families - and you have time and time again exposed the apartheid and eliminatory practices behind the so-called 'judicial process'.

We in UK Palestine Mental Health Network have personal memories of DCI-P from presentations at our 'Cafe Palestine' webinars, from our Children's Conference in 2019 when DCI-P facilitated the participation of two Palestinian teenagers, and from your own appearance with a young ex-prisoner and his parents at the Dublin conference later that year.

In addition, our social worker members made strong connections with DCI-P dating back to their first visit to you in 2011, with Ayed Abu Eqtaish speaking together with another young ex-prisoner at the first London conference of the Palestine-UK Social Work Network in 2013.

Those of us who participated in study group visits to Palestine remember many DCI-P presentations, especially the briefings and tours of Hebron and the inspirational work with children taking place there.

So in many ways for us in the UK Palestine Mental Health Network, you and your team have been an inspiration, always reminding us of the structural violence and "unchilding" that underlines all aspects of Palestinian children and their families' lives and its impact on their mental health.

We thank you profoundly for all that you have done. We are sure you and your colleagues will find ways to continue your advocacy on behalf of Palestinian children and we wish to express our continuing solidarity with everyone who stands up to protect them.

With our very warmest wishes  
UK Palestine Mental Health Network Steering Group