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Representing Minnesota's Fourth District

FACT SHEET

McCollum Proposal for a Special Envoy for Palestinian Youth

The Occupied Palestinian Territories have a massive youth population and it is critical that they grow up with dignity, human rights, and a future free of repression. More than 4.68 million Palestinians live in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and more than 46 percent of them are under the age of 18, according to [Defense for Children International-Palestine](#).

Thousands of Palestinian children have been subject to arrest, detention, interrogation, and imprisonment by Israeli army, police, and security agents. An estimated 7,000 Palestinian children between the ages of 12 and 17 were arrested, detained, interrogated or imprisoned by these authorities in the previous decade, according to a 2013 United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) [report](#).

Palestinian children as young as age 12 have been imprisoned in the Israeli military justice system. Children are also sometimes held in solitary confinement. The Associated Press recently [reported](#) on a 12-year-old girl who was imprisoned by Israel's military justice system. And Defense for Children International-Palestine has [found](#) that between 2012 and 2015, 66 children were held in solitary confinement for an average period of 13 days, in violation of international human rights standards.

Israeli children are not subject to arrest, detention, interrogation or imprisonment by the Israeli army. The Associated Press has [reported](#) that, unlike Palestinians, Israeli settlers, as well as Jewish and Arab citizens of Israel, are subject to Israeli civil law, which does not allow anyone under 14 to go to prison.

Special envoys are frequently used to seek solutions to seemingly intractable problems. The American Foreign Service Association [lists](#) 57 special envoys, representatives, and coordinators across a broad array of issue areas. A Special Envoy for Palestinian Youth would be in keeping with this precedent.