

January 25, 2018

Congresswoman Betty McCollum
Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congresswoman McCollum:

Church World Service (CWS) is pleased to endorse the *Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children Act*, H.R. 4391. We commend your leadership in addressing the military detention, prosecution and mistreatment of Palestinian children.

CWS is concerned that the Israeli military has detained approximately 10,000 Palestinian children, who are often held for extended periods of time without access to parents or attorneys. We are deeply troubled by documented reports by organizations such as Human Rights Watch that many of these children, including those between the ages of 11 and 15, have been subject to abuse and in some cases torture.

As a global humanitarian organization serving in the Middle East and around the world, Church World Service prioritizes the wellbeing and human rights of children. All children are precious in the sight of God, and the United States government must use its influence to end the military detention of Palestinian children. Accordingly, we support HR 4391 to ensure that none of the billions of dollars in U.S. funds going to Israel are used to support the Israeli military's detention or mistreatment of Palestinian children.

We also appreciate your efforts over the years in support of a just resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Ending the military detention and abuse of Palestinian children is a step in that direction, as well as a humanitarian necessity. The wellbeing and security of both Israelis and Palestinians depends on such progress.

Please know that you and your Congressional colleagues are in my prayers as you work for a safe and secure world for Palestinian children and all people.

Yours sincerely,



Reverend John L. McCullough
President and CEO