

IMMEDIATE

23 April 2011

Women & Children Prisoners in Palestine.

Christine Blower, General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers, the largest teachers' union, said;

“The treatment of all women and children prisoners is a matter of international importance. They are often the silent victims who are left to battle with the consequences of conflict and war both in and outside of prison.

“The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child defines a child as someone under the age of 18. Since the UN Convention defines 18 as the age of adulthood, it behoves the international community to respect this. It is unacceptable for children and young people to face trials in military courts, often without legal representation.

“War and conflict robs children of their education as well as their freedom. It is imperative that teaching unions both in the UK and globally work together to ensure that all young people have the opportunity to receive a full education.

“Conflicts around the world are never of children’s making. They must not be made to pay the price. They must be allowed a childhood.”

END

pr48-2011

For further details contact Caroline Cowie on 07879480061