

Counter-arguments

- It's important to remember the sensitivity of this issue for many individuals, and how bystanders may try and redirect the conversation toward other country's perceived blame for the plight of Palestinian child soldiers.
- Below is a list of likely arguments people will make to redirect blame or justify the practice of child soldiers, and how to respond.
- General principle: When they attempt to redirect the conversation to other countries, simply revert back to the discussion on Palestinian child soldiers.
- DO NOT GET DRAGGED INTO A DISCUSSION ABOUT Other Countries.

Question / accusation #1

Q: Doesn't Western Countries have child soldiers too?

A: No.

Follow up Q: But don't they have training camps for teenagers? ROTC and the like?

Follow up A: No. Some Western countries have training camps for teenagers, meant to give them a taste of what they will experience as soldiers in the future. These exercises last only a few days, and the teenagers never see any form of combat.

Question / accusation #2

Q: The Palestinians are just trying to fight for their rights.

A: That isn't the issue at hand. You are trying to put forward reasons for why they recruit child soldiers. But there simply is no reason that justifies using children as weapons of war, **ever, period, no matter what**. The UN says as much in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Even in cases of a political struggle for self-determination, children should be off-limits.

Question / accusation #3

Q: None of this would happen if the Palestinians were given their rights.

A: Again, this is merely evading the issue of Palestinian child soldiers. Nothing changes the fact that the Palestinian government indoctrinates innocent children into hate and violence, whether via its inciteful education system or TV programs that teach children to stab Jews.

Question / accusation #4

Q: Well, in the West they also indoctrinate children into hating Palestinians.

A: There is no Western country that inculcates hatred in its children the way the Palestinian Authority and Hamas does. In Palestinian Authority schools, Palestinian Authority issued textbooks praise convicted terrorist murderers like Dalal Mughrabi, who participated in a 1978 massacre that killed 38 civilians, including 13 children. Additionally, Palestinian television routinely airs children's shows that promote violence and death towards Jews.

Question / accusation #5

Q: Why are you focusing only on Palestinian child soldiers? Aren't there hundreds of thousands of other child soldiers around the world?

A: True, the problem of child soldiers exist in many parts of the world, and it is horrific no matter where, when, or why. While there are many amazing organizations and institutions that try and help the children, few address the issue of Palestinian child soldiers. Of course, the practice is evil no matter what, but what we are aiming to do is to raise awareness of the issue in the Palestinian territories, since its unfortunately rarely discussed.