

Did Israeli Soldiers Arrest Palestinian Children For Picking Flowers?

by Hugh Fitzgerald



Israeli soldiers arrest Palestinian children for the “crime” of picking flowers and vegetables located on a Jewish outpost in the West Bank. You can read about this highly implausible event here: “Fact Check: Did Israeli Soldiers Arrest Palestinian Youths for ‘Picking Flowers’?,” by Emanuel Miller, [ABC News](#), suggested: “Israeli troops detained five Palestinian children for several hours after they were confronted by Jewish settlers while gathering wild artichokes near a settlement outpost.”

The story was also written up by other sites such as [Business Insider](#) and [NBC News](#).

Even before the piece was published in the media, the

Independent's Middle East correspondent, Bel Trew, wrote in a Twitter thread on Wednesday that, "Israel arrested 5 Palestinian children aged 7-11... after they were picking flowers near a settlement in the occupied West Bank according to rights groups."

The claims, too, are based entirely on anecdotal and partial evidence provided by B'Tselem.

There are three major problems with Trew's statement:

1. The correct term is "detain," not arrest. The children were brought to a police station and later released into the custody of their families.
2. There is ["a deliberate provocation."](#)...

B'Tselem encourages and incites Palestinians, including children, to attack Israelis, both soldiers and civilians, in the hope that thereby an "incident" can be created where only the Israelis responding to the attacks, and not the attacks themselves, can be recorded. There are many accounts by soldiers wounded in such attacks that B'Tselem activists had encouraged, including that of Captain Mordi Arieli, whose personal story of being attacked by a teenager who dropped a large rock on him from a building can be seen [Jihad Watch](#).