**Name and first name:** Abu Eqtaish, Ayed

**Date and place of birth:** 12/12/1967, Ramallah, State of Palestine

**Working languages:** English, Arabic

**Current position/function:**

Accountability Program Director, Defense for Children International – Palestine Section (DCIP)

**Main professional activities:**

Mr. Abu Eqtaish runs a team of 17 advocacy, communications, legal, and research professionals, in monitoring and documenting children's rights violations, advocacy responses to hold perpetrators accountable and change policies, and offering free legal aid services to children in distress. He serves as spokesperson for national, regional, and international media, leads international speaking tours, and regularly gives keynote speeches at conferences and events worldwide. He has also served in an advisory role during the drafting of the Juvenile Protection Law and amendments to the Palestinian Child Law.

An expert in children’s rights, Mr. Abu Eqtaish trains Palestinian teachers, lawyers, police, and counselors to ensure awareness and proper application of new laws and policy changes. An advocate for child participation, Mr. Abu Eqtaish also trains children in identifying violations of their rights, documenting them, and implement advocacy campaigns to improve their own protective environments.

Mr. Abu Eqtaish represents DCIP, the lead monitoring and reporting organization on children in Israeli military detention, in the UNICEF-led Working Group on Grave Violations against Palestinian children, a UN country-level effort to strengthen monitoring and reporting activities related to grave violations against children included in Security Council resolution 1612. He often testifies and engages United Nations human rights mechanisms, including the Security Council, Human Rights Council, human rights treaty bodies, and all relevant thematic and country-specific special procedures.

**Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned:**

Mr. Abu Eqtaish coordinated and led a group of civil society organizations in the drafting of the alternative report on Israel to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. He has participated in the civil society consultation with regards the State of Palestine’s report to the UNCRC, while leading several civil society organizations in drafting the alternative report on the State of Palestine to the UNCRC.

Mr. Abu Eqtaish drafted and lobbied the Palestinian parties and factions to sign the honor code: No to child recruitment, which the national and Islamic forces have signed in May 2010.

With over 20 years of experience in the field of children’s rights, Mr. Abu Eqtaish appears regularly in national, regional, and international media as a commentator on the situation of Palestinian children rights and issues related to the protective environment for children across the Middle East.

Mr. Abu Eqtaish lectured regularly at national universities on the situation of Palestinian children under domestic and international laws.

**Educational background:**

Master of Advanced Studies (MAS) in Children's Rights, University of Fribourg, Switzerland (thesis on the impunity of children in the Palestinian tribal justice system)

Post Graduate Diploma in Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development, Maastricht School of Management, Netherlands

Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Applied Sociology, Bethlehem University, Palestine

**List of most recent publications in the field:**

1. “*No Way to Treat a Child: Palestinian Children in the Israeli Military Detention System*,” Defense for Children International – Palestine Section (Editor) - 2016
2. “*Operation Protective Edge: A War Waged on Gaza’s Children*,” Defense for Children International – Palestine Section (Editor) - 2015
3. “*Growing up between Israeli Settlements and Soldiers*,” Defense for Children International – Palestine Section (Editor) - 2014
4. “*Country Profile of the Occupied Palestinian Territory*,” Save the Children Sweden (Editor) - 2011
5. “S*ustained Occupation, Suspended Dreams*,” Defense for Children International – Palestine Section (Co-Author) - 2006
6. “*Surviving the Present, Facing the Future*,” Defense for Children International – Palestine Section (Co-Author) - 2004
7. “*Children of the Second Intifada*,” Defense for Children International – Palestine Section (Co-Author) - 2003