

Abstract

The topic of democratic transformation in Palestine is one of the most problematic at stake, for Palestine is still suffering the Israeli colonial topics and controversial condition. Any “normal” democratic transformation should lead to several changes in legislations and laws. The Palestinian children, as citizens whose number forms more than half of Palestinian society, should not be exception from the legislations and laws installed by the authority. Accordingly, the problem of this study has been based on investigating a major question: what impact the “pseudo-democratic transformation” has on limiting or eradicating the phenomenon of child abuse in the Palestinian case?

This study is based on major thesis that democratic transformation should lead to limiting the phenomenon of children abuse in general. However, in the Palestinian case it has not been a democratic transformation, but rather a “pseudo” one. Therefore, we barely witnessed any reduction the phenomenon of child abuse. To investigate the complications of this problem, the study used content analysis as a methodology to decode the Law of Palestinian Childe, and validates this analysis with 13 open-ended interviews with social workers, legislatures, and other activists in the field from several civil society organization.

Accordingly, the thesis is divided into five chapters: Chapter I: is an introductory chapter that tackles child’s rights and the transformations of the colonial condition in the Palestinian case; Chapter II: presents a literature review of related fields of the study be it the democratic transformation or the child abuse on the local, regional, and international levels; Chapter III, focuses on the rights of the Palestinian child between theory and practice, with a special emphasis on laws in-the-making; Chapter IV, integrates between a content analysis of the Palestinian laws related the child, and the role of the civil society institutions working in the field directly with children or mentoring the process of legislation itself; and Chapter V, summaries the conclusions and the recommendations of the study.

The major conclusion of this study asserts that what has been deemed as “democratic transformation” in Palestine is a “pseudo transformation” given that the Israeli colonial condition has not ended yet. One consequence of this abnormality in the Palestinian society has been the limited change in the status of child protection on the governmental and civil society levels.