



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORTING FAIR TRIAL & HUMAN RIGHTS

Registration No. 2795/2012

OFFICIAL LETTER HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION

PALESTINIAN TEEN ACTIVIST AHED TAMIMI'S APPEAL FOR EARLY RELEASE REJECTED BY ISRAELI MILITARY COURT



Ahed Tamimi, eventeen-year-old Palestinian resistance figure

Ahed Tamimi's case gained international attention when a footage of her emerged, then aged 16, slapping two Israeli soldiers who refused to leave her family's property during a demonstration in the occupied West Bank.

The video of Tamimi's confrontation with the soldiers went viral, where she repeatedly told the soldiers to leave her land, while she was praised for her bravery for standing up to the Israeli soldiers who had entered her home.



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After her arrest, as a way to curtail international attention, Tamimi's trial was held behind closed doors by the Israel's military court despite repeated requests by Tamimi's defense team for a public trial.

Eventually she accepted a plea bargain in which she was sentenced to an eight-month prison term due to end in mid-July.

Last Wednesday an Israeli parole committee rejected the 17-year-old Ahed Tamimi's appeal for early release, said a spokeswoman for a group campaigning on her behalf.

Previously, in March 2018, the Israeli soldier Elor Azaria, who was found guilty of killing the then 21-year-old Abdul Fattah al-Sharif while he was unarmed and laying on the floor already incapacitated, was released from prison after the military court having accepted an early-release request lodged by the convicted soldier's lawyers, leaving Azaria with only nine months of a 14-month manslaughter sentence.

The outcome of these sentences clearly shows the biased and impartial nature of Israeli's judiciary system that favors the status quo.

Israel has a track record of being the only country in the world that systematically prosecutes an estimated 500 to 700 children each year in military courts that lack fundamental fair trial rights and protections and is notorious for widespread, systematic and institutionalized ill-treatment of Palestinians child detainees.

In 2013, UNICEF released a report titled *Children in Israeli Military Detention: Observations and Recommendations*. The report concluded that "ill treatment of children who come in contact with the military detention system appears to be widespread, systematic and institutionalized throughout the process."

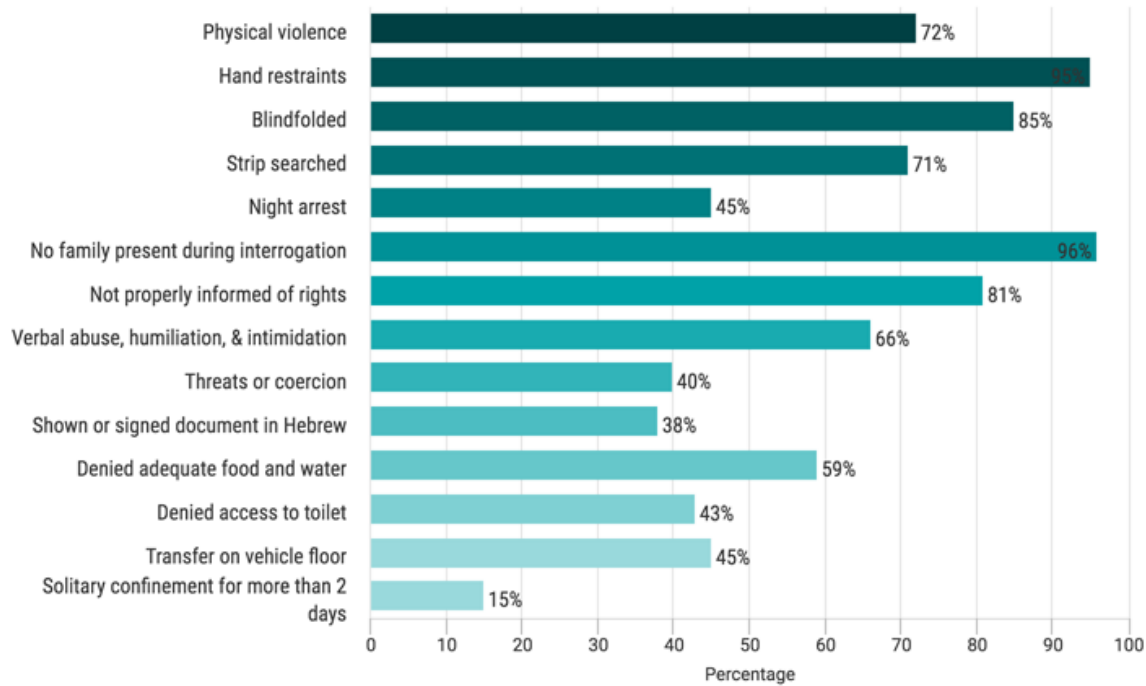
Defense for Children International – Palestine (DCIP) collected 590 sworn affidavits from Palestinian children detained by Israeli forces from occupied West Bank between 2012 and 2016. The data below shows the types of ill-treatment reported by these children:



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Source: Defense for Children International - Palestine (DCIP)

Despite repeated calls by UN bodies and human rights institutions to abide by international law, Israeli military and police continue night arrests, physical violence, coercion, and threats against Palestinian children

The Tamimi family has been in the forefront of the struggle against the expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank. The Israeli occupation has been actively persecuting the family for decades over their weekly protests against the theft of their lands in favor of the illegal Jewish settlement of Halamish near Nabi Saleh. Several members of the family have been detained and killed over the years.

Her cousin Mohammad Fadel Tamimi was shot in the head at close range with a rubber-coated steel bullet. Part of his skull had to be removed to dislodge the bullet. Despite his injury, Israeli occupation forces kidnapped him and interrogated him without his parents or a lawyer present.

Peace can only be achieved by respecting human rights, especially the rights of children. The international community must continue to expose and take actions against the unjust and ongoing mistreatment of Palestinian children living under Israeli occupation.

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ICSFT condemns the actions of Israel, who must stop their persecution against Palestinian children in the Occupied Territories, respect the rights of the Palestinian people and seriously comply with its international obligations.