



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORTING FAIR TRIAL & HUMAN RIGHTS

Registration No. 2795/2012

OFFICIAL LETTER HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION

PALESTINIAN TEEN ACTIVIST AHED TAMIMI FREED FROM JAIL



Ahed Tamimi (right) and her mother Narima (left)

Palestinian teen activist Ahed Tamimi, whose [eight-month sentence](#) for slapping and hitting Israeli soldiers sparked international condemnation, has been released from Israeli prison. She was released with her mother, Nariman, who was also sentenced to eight months.

Addressing the crowd, Tamimi thanked activists and the media for their support during her prison stay. She said she was “extremely happy” to be “in the arms and embrace of my family” but added that her “happiness is not full” when others are still behind Israeli bars. “I hope that they will also be free,” she said.

On 15 December 2017, Ahed Tamimi, then 16, was visibly upset by the announcement that her 15-year-old cousin Mohammed Tamimi had been shot at close range in the face by soldiers of the Israeli occupation army with a rubber-coated steel bullet earlier in the day, leaving him in critical condition.



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Mohammed Tamimi, 16, recovering after having his head shattered by a Israeli soldier's rubber bullet

This same unit of soldiers approached the family home an hour later, and Ahed screamed at them and slapped a soldier. This time, the encounter was filmed by her mother and posted on social media, and it shows the courage of an unarmed teenager confronting two heavily armed soldiers.

Palestinian civilians judged by Israeli military courts

After a video went viral showing the young woman hitting and slapping two armed Israeli soldiers outside her home in Nabi Saleh, on 19 December 2017, Ahed Tamimi and her mother were abducted from their home at the night by the army and brought before Israel's Ofer military court in occupied Ramallah.

The twelve counts of indictment brought against her could carry a sentence of 12 years in prison. Israeli military courts deal exclusively with Palestinian prisoners, with a conviction rate of 99.74 percent.

In March, Tamimi and her mother accepted plea deals that would see them serve eight months in prison, including time served, in exchange for pleading guilty to some of the charges.



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Israeli persecution

Israeli forces initiated a crackdown on Nabi Saleh after the video went viral, arresting residents and killed Ahd's 21-year-old relative Izz al-Din Tamimi during a raid in the village.

Tamimi's cousin Mohammed, who is still healing from his injuries, has also been detained by Israeli forces twice since Israeli forces shot the teen in the face.

Earlier this year, Nabi Saleh residents woke up to Hebrew graffiti splashed around the village, some of which read "Death to Ahd Tamimi" and "There's no place in this world for Ahd Tamimi." Residents believe it was the act of Israeli settlers from the adjacent Halamish settlement, which was built on top of Nabi Saleh's lands.

In another incident, settlers from Halamish demonstrated on a road that divides the village and the settlement, carrying makeshift coffins and chanting "Death to Ahd Tamimi."

Although happy for having his daughter back, Bassem Tamimi said he was worried about Ahd's safety after her release, noting that she had been threatened by right-wing Israeli politicians and settlers.

Bassem's happiness, however, was overshadowed by a heavy heart, as his 21-year-old son, Waed, remains in Israeli detention since being arrested in an overnight raid of his home in May.

'Inform the world about Israeli prison'

The teen's arrest drew [international condemnation](#) and again put the spotlight on Israel's barbaric [treatment of Palestinians](#), especially Palestinian youth.

According to Dawoud Yusef, advocacy coordinator for Palestinian prisoners' rights group Addameer, Palestinian women experience severe mistreatment in Israeli prisons, noting that Israeli guards are "commonly involved in the sexual abuse of female prisoners, whether verbally or physically."



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Palestinian women also face extreme forms of neglect in the prisons, such as Israeli prison authorities refusing to provide “necessary sanitary products” to Palestinian female prisoners, Yusef said.

In the case of female minors being held in Israeli prisons, “the things that stand out are the mental effects of such abuses, combined with a sense of shame over the whole ordeal,” Yusef added.

According to Addameer, of the 5,900 Palestinians who were being held in Israeli prisons as of June 1, 60 were women and 291 were minors - 49 of whom were under the age of 16.

Some as young as 12

Ahed Tamimi’s case is not isolated. According to Defense for Children International – Palestine (DCI), Israel brings 500 to 700 Palestinian children before military courts each year, some as young as 12. Since 2012, Israel has held about 200 Palestinian children in custody each month.



Israeli police detain a Palestinian youth in East Jerusalem, 2014

As of June 1, there are more than 290 minors in Israeli custody, according to rights groups.

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According to Tamimi's aunt, Manal, who is also a prominent activist in the village, 15 Nabi Saleh residents are still in Israeli custody, four of whom are minors.

According to the reports of international agencies, including UNICEF, Human Rights Watch, B'Tselem, Amnesty International and Defense for Children International – Palestine, three out of every four children arrested experience violence during arrest or interrogation. They are frequently arrested in night raids on their home; 85 percent of arrested Palestinian children were blindfolded and 95 percent were handcuffed.



Fawzi al-Junaidi, arrested blindfolded for throwing stones, occupied Hebron, Dec. 2017

The DCI is concerned that Israeli military arrests are not only violent, but that children often lack proper legal representation during the court process, and that the impact of detention lasts well into adulthood.

They are deprived of access to lawyers, denied the presence of their parents during interrogation and forced to sign confessions. They are also subject to “administrative detention,” imprisonment without charge or trial. They are often detained in detention centers located outside the territories occupied by Israel, making visits from their families difficult. The use of isolation cells for the interrogation of children is a practice that has been likened to torture under international law.

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The UNICEF report of 2013, demonstrated the same scenario: “[t]he abuse of children in contact with the military detention system appears to be widespread, systemic and institutionalized throughout the process, from the time of arrest through the prosecution of the child, their potential conviction and the application of a penalty.”

ICSFT condemns the administrative detention practices that violate children’s rights and international law.

We call the international community to take active measures to condemn these violations and urge the Israeli authorities to immediately release hundreds of Palestinian child prisoners languishing in poor conditions. We cannot look away as innocent children are illegally detained and separated from their families.

Stop the detention of Palestinian children in Israeli prisons!