

Who is Ahed Tamimi?

Ahed Tamimi is a 17-year-old girl from the village of Nabi Saleh in the West Bank. Ahed and her family are prominent activists and have been demonstrating against Israeli military rule for over a decade. Nabi Saleh in particular has had most of its land and spring taken by the Israeli army for the benefit of the nearby settlement of Halamish. As a result of the village's resistance, members of the Tamimi family have been explicitly and systematically targeted by the Israeli state; they have had work permits revoked, many have been arrested and imprisoned, and both a cousin and an uncle of Ahed's were shot dead by the Israeli army. Ahed's father, Basem Tamimi, has been incarcerated 9 times. In 1993, he was interrogated through means of torture to a degree that left him comatose for over a week. Ahed's mother, Nariman Tamimi, has been arrested and injured by the Israeli army multiple times in recent years, including an injury sustained from live ammunition.

Ahed has travelled to various places to tell her story of struggle against Israeli military rule, including to South Africa last year where she was part of a Palestinian activist youth delegation. Ahed is thus a highly vocal and well-known voice who has a large social media presence and following.

How and why was she arrested?

On the 19th of December 2017, Ahed was arrested from her family home under the cover of darkness. Her mother, Nariman Tamimi was arrested the same day when she went to inquire about her daughter at the local Israeli police station. Nour Tamimi, Ahed's cousin, was arrested the following day.

The incident cited as the initial justification for the arrest of Ahed and Nour is a video that went viral in which both confront heavily armed Israeli soldiers who had forced their way into the Tamimi's home not long after Ahed's 15-year-old cousin, Mohammed, was shot in the face with a rubber coated bullet by an Israeli soldier and suffered critical injuries. The video induced a full-fledged media frenzy in the Israeli press, which evoked an inflammatory discourse around Ahed and Nour. Nariman was arrested on suspicion of incitement, for having allegedly filmed and uploaded the incident to Facebook. All three have been since served with inflated indictments. While Nour has since been released, Ahed and her mother Nariman have been remanded into open-ended detention until the end of legal proceedings in their cases.

What is the situation now?

Ahed is detained in Hashron prison, where she spent her 17th birthday on the 31st of January. The 12 count indictment filed against her includes charges of assault and incitement. Under Israeli military law, each and every one of these charges is independently punishable by up to a maximum of between 5 to 10 years in prison. She will be tried in an Israeli military court based on Israeli military orders where the conviction rate is above 99%. Meanwhile she has endured aggressive interrogations, sometimes at night, where threats have been made against her family and where she has also been subjected to emotional abuse.

What needs to be done?

Ahed Tamimi is a Palestinian child potentially facing over a decade in an Israeli prison because of an aggressive political campaign against her family and her village. However she is not the only Palestinian child in prison. Currently there are 300 Palestinian children in Israeli prisons and over 8000 have been arrested since the year 2000. UNICEF has described Israeli detention of Palestinian children as amounting to *"to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment"*.

The demand to release Ahed Tamimi, her mother and all other child prisoners must be made immediately. The Israeli military court system also has to be condemned and governments around the world must ensure that they are not aiding and abetting this system through financial or military aid.

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Free the Tamimis Campaign

