

PALESTINIAN CHILDREN UNDER ATTACK: #FreeAhedTamimi and all Child Detainees



Ahed Tamimi, 16, a Palestinian girl from the village of Nabi Saleh near Ramallah in occupied Palestine, has been detained by Israeli occupation forces since December 19, 2017. After her arrest, her mother, Nariman Tamimi, was called to the police station - and then seized herself by occupation forces. Ahed's cousin Nour, 21, was also seized and charged before the military courts before securing her release. Ahed and her family have been arrested solely for their commitment to preserving and protecting their village's land in the face of ongoing settlement construction, violent invasions and raids, land confiscation, mass arrests and other attacks on their village.

Most recently, Ahed and her mother were seized after Ahed confronted and slapped an occupation soldier - who himself slapped her first - after soldiers shot her 14-year-old cousin Mohammed in the head with a rubber-coated metal bullet. Ahed and Nariman Tamimi face an array of charges before Israeli military courts for posting on social media, demonstrating, and confronting hostile occupation soldiers on their own land. Bassem, Ahed's father, has been detained at least 11 times by Israeli authorities and spent over three years imprisoned without charge or trial.

Palestinian Child Prisoners:

Ahed Tamimi is not alone; indeed, she is one of over 300 Palestinian child prisoners currently imprisoned by the Israeli occupation. Every year, over 700 Palestinian children face military trials and military imprisonment. Palestinian children are subject to torture and abuse under interrogation, arbitrary military trials, denial of their right to education, physical and psychological violence and imprisonment without charge or trial on a regular basis. Abdul-Khalik Burnat, 17, is another youth involved in land defense seized on December 10 by occupation forces.

Like Palestinian adults, Palestinian children are also subject to military trials with a 99.74% conviction rate as well as imprisonment without charge or trial under administrative detention. There are currently over 450 Palestinians jailed under administrative detention orders, which have included dozens of minors in the past few years.

"We have no choice but to resist. But because we resist, we pay the price." - Bassem Tamimi

The village of Nabi Saleh, the home of Ahed, Nariman and the rest of the Tamimi family, is home to 600 Palestinians. An agricultural village near Ramallah, Nabi Saleh has been home to weekly protests organized by Palestinian villagers - and supported by international activists - seeking to defend their land.

The illegal Zionist settlement of Halamish and its armed settlers have repeatedly attacked the village and have even confiscated its well and water spring; the village itself has faced continuous land confiscation and home demolitions at the hands

of the Israeli occupation military. The settlement receives 24/7 water service, while the village of Nabi Saleh has only 12 hours of running water each week.

The village has been raided and attacked repeatedly and its residents assaulted with tear gas and rubber-coated metal bullets - including the one shot at Mohammed Tamimi, 14, Ahed's cousin, who was critically injured. Dozens of villagers have been arrested and even imprisoned by military courts for seeking to protect their ancestral agricultural lands from confiscation and destruction.

TAKE ACTION: WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. In the US, Call your member of the House of Representatives to support H.R. 4391, the Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children Act. Tell them specifically about Ahed's arrest, and urge them to act for her release and that of other Palestinian kids. Call the House switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and ask to speak to your Representative's office.

2. For international supporters, Call your government officials and demand action for Ahed Tamimi and other Palestinian child prisoners, and freedom for Nariman Tamimi. In Australia, MFA Julie Bishop: + 61 2 6277 7500; In Canada, Minister Chrystia Freeland: +1-613-992-5234; in the EU, Federica Mogherini: +32 (0) 2 29 53516; UK Minister Boris Johnson: +44 20 7008 1500

3. Boycott, Divest and Sanction. Hold Israel accountable for its violations of international law. Don't buy Israeli goods, and campaign to end investments in corporations that profit from the occupation like Hewlett-Packard and G4S.

4. Write to Ahed and Nariman Tamimi. While Zionist jailers frequently censor Palestinian prisoners' mail, these letters can help bolster morale and even send a message to the jailers and censors themselves. Write to Ahed Tamimi or Nariman Tamimi (choose one and address your letter to one only) at: HaSharon prison Ben Yehuda, P.O. Box 7; 40 330 Israel

5. Call your nearest Israeli embassy and demand Ahed, her mother Nariman, and the other detained Palestinian child prisoners be immediately released. Contact information here: <https://embassy.goabroad.com/embassies-of/israel>

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