

19 December 2017

OPT/Israel – 16-year-old human rights defender Ahed Tamimi arrested and mother Nariman Tamimi detained

Israeli soldiers [arrested](#) 16-year-old human rights defender Ahed Tamimi during a military raid on her home in the early hours of 19 December 2017. When her mother, [Nariman Tamimi](#), went to Binyamin Detention Center to look for her child following the raid, soldiers detained her as well.

Ahed Tamimi is an [activist](#) in the village of Nabi Saleh in the occupied West Bank, who has protested against land confiscation and the exploitation of natural resources for settlement construction, particularly the well of Nabi Saleh. She is world renowned for her struggle against illegal settlement expansion, and has spoken in Brussels, Istanbul, and Johannesburg about Palestinian rights.

"Ahed Tamimi became a human rights defender so young because she was born and raised under Israeli occupation, surrounded by Palestinian resistance," said Front Line Defenders Head of Protection, Ed O'Donovan, speaking from Dublin. "Her human rights activism seems to terrify Israel's military, who last night raided her home, dragged her from her family, and are holding her in an unknown location. We demand their immediate and unconditional release of Ahed."

During the raid, Israeli officers broke into Ahed's family's home, forced her into a military jeep, and are holding her in an undisclosed location. A day prior to her arrest she was protesting against the [shooting](#) of 14-year-old Mohammed Tamimi, who was shot in the face by Israeli soldiers and is currently in critical condition in a medically-induced coma. During the raid on her home, soldiers forcibly entered the house and physically assaulted Ahed's mother, and Ahed's siblings. Soldiers and intelligence officers confiscated electronic devices, including laptops, cameras, and mobile phones.

The village of Nabi Saleh is a Palestinian village northwest of Ramallah that has been subjected to what has been called a "[silent ethnic cleansing](#)", with a current population of about 600 according to 2016 census. With the construction and subsequent expansion of the illegal settlement of Halamish, Palestinian land from the village has been stolen, a barrier has been put in place prohibiting access of farmers to their land, resources of fresh water springs have been pillaged by settlers, and access to the village well has been restricted. Weekly protests have taken place since December 2009.

Front Line Defenders condemns the arrest of the child Ahed Tamimi and the subsequent arrest of her mother Nariman Tamimi. Front Line Defenders demands that the Israeli authorities immediately and unconditionally release Ahed Tamimi and Nariman Tamimi, who are being held solely as a result of Ahed's legitimate and peaceful work in the defence of human rights.