

Israel Sentences Palestinian Teenager Ahed Tamimi to Eight Months in Prison, For “Assaulting” Heavily Armed Israeli Soldiers

By [Tamara Nassar](#)

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Featured image: Ahed Tamimi in Ofer military court on 15 January. (Source: Oren Ziv/ActiveStills)

An Israeli military court has [approved](#) a [plea deal](#) which will see Palestinian teenager [Ahed Tamimi](#) serve an eight-month prison sentence on top of a fine of nearly \$1,500.

Ahed, who turned 17 in January, was [charged](#) with assaulting soldiers and incitement after a [video](#) recorded by her mother [Nariman](#) circulated, showing Ahed and her cousin [Nour](#) slapping and shoving two heavily armed Israeli soldiers on 15 December.

Ahed was [arrested in the middle of the night](#) at her home in the occupied West Bank village of [Nabi Saleh](#) on 19 December.

Nour and Nariman were also [detained by the army following the videotaped incident](#) and have been [sentenced](#) to time served – 16 days in prison – and eight months in prison, respectively, after accepting plea deals.

“Something shameful”

The military court dropped several of its initial charges against Ahed, for which she faced up to 10 years in prison, [according](#) to the prisoners solidarity group [Samidoun](#).

An Israeli military court [ruled](#) on Sunday that proceedings in Ahed’s case were to be held behind closed doors, rejecting her appeal for a public trial on the basis that it was for “the minor’s benefit.”

“It seems like it finally dawned on them that there’s something shameful about the proceedings against [Ahed], and that it is better to hold a secret trial rather than make public this legal farce,” Ahed’s lawyer Gaby Lasky told The Electronic Intifada prior to the ruling.

Israel’s military courts deny basic due process rights and [have a near-100 percent conviction rate](#) for Palestinians.

Concerned by these abuses, [21 members](#) of US Congress are [backing legislation](#) to bar Israel from using American aid for the imprisonment and abuse of Palestinian children like Ahed Tamimi.

There are currently more than 300 Palestinian children in Israeli military detention.

Revenge campaign

Ahed's viral videotaped confrontation with the soldiers occurred outside her home hours after Israeli soldiers [shot in the head and seriously injured](#) her 15-year-old cousin [Muhammad Fadel Tamimi](#).

Muhammad was also [arrested](#) by Israeli soldiers on 26 January along with several other members of the Tamimi family, most of them children. Muhammad was released after being interrogated.

The Tamimi family is known for its [unarmed resistance](#) to Israel's encroachment on their village of Nabi Saleh.

Ahed's arrest made [international headlines](#) and rallied global support for her freedom, causing major embarrassment for Israel.

Israeli officials made bizarre and absurd claims about her family, with deputy minister Michael Oren [positing](#) that the Tamimis were a group of "[blond, blue-eyed and light-skinned](#)" actors hired to "make Israel look bad."

Yoav Mordechai, the general who oversees COGAT, the bureaucratic arm of Israel's military occupation, claimed that the injury to Muhammad Tamimi's head was caused not by an Israeli soldier's bullet, but by the child falling off his bike – an [outlandish story soon debunked](#) by journalists and human rights defenders.

Discrimination

While Ahed Tamimi was sentenced to eight months for slapping and shoving occupation soldiers, Israeli army medic [Elor Azarya](#) will be released from prison in May after serving only nine months for [executing](#) a prone Palestinian who lay incapacitated on a Hebron street.

Azarya's 18-month sentence was [shortened](#) to 14 months in September. This week a military parole board [ordered](#) Azarya's release after serving two-thirds of his sentence.

Elor Azaria – Israeli soldier convicted of killing a wounded Palestinian by shooting him in the head. He'll be out in May, having served 9 months.

Ahed Tamimi – Palestinian teenager arrested after slapping a heavily-armed Israeli soldier in her backyard. She's getting 8 months.
pic.twitter.com/H6dTm2lbrp

— Ben White (@benabyad) [March 21, 2018](#)

An Israeli military court had ruled that Azarya's act was [motivated by revenge](#).

The chief prosecutor in the case stated Azarya has shown no remorse and taken no responsibility for his actions but poses no danger to the public, [according](#) to *Haaretz*.

Meanwhile, David Muial was [sentenced to community service](#) on Wednesday after participating in the [lynching of Eritrean asylum seeker Haftom Zarhum](#) in October 2015.

Zarhum, 29, was severely beaten and shot to death by a mob of Israeli soldiers, prison officers and police after they mistook him for the gunman who had opened fire moments earlier at the central bus station in Beer Sheva, a city in southern Israel.

Israel [refused](#) to recognize Zarhum as a “terror victim” on grounds that he had entered Israel illegally, preventing his family from claiming compensation.

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Tamara Nassar is an assistant editor at The Electronic Intifada.

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