

## **Palestinian teen Ahed Tamimi to be released from Israeli prison**

Ahed Tamimi, a Palestinian teenager convicted of assaulting Israeli soldiers, will be released on Sunday after serving her sentence, her family said Thursday.

Tamimi, 17, from Nabi Saleh in the West Bank, turned into a protest icon after she was filmed slapping an Israeli soldier. She was detained for three months before being sentenced in March to eight months in jail after reaching a plea deal.

As part of the agreement, Tamimi pleaded guilty to four counts of assault, including the videotaped slapping of an Israeli soldier. In addition to the eight month jail sentence, she was to pay a fine of 5,000 shekels (\$1,437).

After her release Sunday, Tamimi is expected to hold a press conference in her hometown. Tamimi was arrested in December, a day after a video of her punching, slapping and kicking two Israeli soldiers in a West Bank village went viral.

Ahed's father, Bassem Tamimi, told Haaretz that the family has been notified that Ahed will be released this Sunday, and that from the morning, family members will wait for her at the Jabbara checkpoint south of Tulkarm, and head there by convoy to Ramallah to place a wreath on the late president Yasser Arafat's grave.

Afterward the convoy will head to Nabi Salah where there will be a festive reception and in the evening a press conference will be held at their house.

At this stage it is unclear whether Tamimi will be invited to the Palestinian Authority president's office in Ramallah, and her family says that as of today, they have not been approached about this. According to the father, the family is aware that Ahed has become a symbol for the Palestinian people including the youth and she intends to visit many Palestinian cities including Bethlehem several days after her release against the backdrop of the great support and sympathy she has had from the Palestinian people and from the Arab and international arena.

"Tamimi's long detention stemmed from political motives than from legal reasons," Tamimi's lawyer Gaby Lasky said on Thursday, adding "legal proceedings are not intended to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and instead of sending minors to prison for resisting the occupation, the time has come for a courageous leadership to free us all from the chains of the occupation."

Her initial January indictment included 12 charges going back to 2016. The indictment included five counts of assault against security forces, including stone throwing. She was charged with assaulting a soldier, threatening a soldier, interfering with a soldier in the line of duty, incitement and throwing objects at a person or property.

Last June, a parole board rejected Tamimi's request for an early release. The Shin Bet security service issued an opinion in the case opposing her release. "The statements she has made about the case indicate her radical ideology, [and] along with the security situation in the area, [this] demonstrates her potential for danger if she receives an early release," the Shin Bet wrote.

DPA contributed to this report

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