



Right Hon Alistair Burt MP  
Minister of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
City of Westminster  
London  
SW1A 2AH

**For the urgent attention of: Right Hon Alistair Burt MP**

20 December 2017

Dear Minister Burt,

**Urgent: 16 year old human rights defender, Ahed Tamimi, and her mother Nariman Tamimi, arrested and detained on 19 December 2017**

As lawyers committed to the protection and promotion of Palestinian human rights, we write to request that the UK Government urgently intervenes with Israeli authorities in regard to the appalling arrest and detention of the 16 year old human rights defender and activist, Ahed Tamimi, and her mother, Nariman Tamimi, on 19 December 2017. We also urge that the Government initiates swift intervention action with its European counterparts under the framework provided by the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders.

#### **Details of Ahed and Nariman Tamimi's arrest and detention**

According to information from the non-governmental organisation, Front Line Defenders, Ahed Tamimi was arrested during a 3am night raid on her home in the village of Nabi Saleh, in the occupied West Bank, on 19 December 2017. The child was taken from her home by Israeli soldiers without any reasons being given, and is currently being held in an undisclosed location. Three days prior to her arrest, Ahed had been filmed confronting Israeli soldiers following the shooting of her cousin, 14 year old Mohammed Tamimi, in the face by a rubber bullet. He is in a critical condition after been in a medically induced coma for 72 hours.

During the night-time arrest of Ahed Tamimi, soldiers physically assaulted her mother, Nariman Tamimi, who is a recognised human rights defender. Soldiers and intelligence officers also confiscated electronic devices, including laptops, cameras, and mobile phones. Later that day at approximately 1:30 pm, Nariman Tamimi went to Binyamin Detention Center to ask about the whereabouts of her daughter, and was then herself detained.

Nabi Saleh is a Palestinian village northwest of Ramallah in the occupied West Bank with a population of 600 people. It has been subjected to coercive measures by Israeli authorities through mobility restrictions, checkpoints, and restricted access to natural resources. The construction and subsequent expansion of the nearby illegal settlement of Halamish has resulted in Palestinian land from the village being expropriated. A barrier has been put in place prohibiting the access of farmers to their land. Water springs have been diverted by



settlers, and access to the village well is restricted. These deliberate measures have a deleterious impact on the basic human rights of the village residents. Weekly peaceful protests have taken place in Nabi Saleh since 2009 in response. The protests are led by Bassam Tamimi, who is the father of Ahed and husband of Nariman. He is recognised by Amnesty International as a “Prisoner of Conscience”.

LPHR is extremely concerned by the arrests and detention of 16 year old, Ahed Tamimi, and her mother, Nariman Tamimi. We are also appalled by the demonstrable pattern of arrests, detention, harassment and violence arbitrarily administered against members of the Tamimi family by Israeli authorities.

### **Urgent intervention required by the British government**

We urge that you consider intervening in this urgent matter through taking the following suggested actions, the last of which references relevant measures provided by the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders:

1. Urge that Israeli authorities immediately and unconditionally release Ahed and Nariman Tamimi, as LPHR endorses the view of Front Line Defenders that they are being detained solely as a result of their legitimate and peaceful work in the defence of human rights;
2. Urge Israeli authorities that the treatment of Ahed and Nariman Tamimi, while in detention, adheres to all relevant international human rights and due process standards;
3. Urge that Israeli authorities inform the family and lawyer of Ahed Tamimi of the place of her detention, allow them immediate and unfettered access to her, and conform with all relevant obligations contained in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child;
4. Carry out an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the assault of against Nariman Tamimi, with a view to publishing the results and bringing those responsible to justice in accordance with international standards;
5. Work closely with your European counterparts to initiate an EU Local Statement calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Ahed Tamimi and Nariman Tamimi; ensure that diplomatic staff observe any court hearings; and seek visits to Ahed and Nariman Tamimi while they are in detention and to their family.

We would be grateful for your prompt consideration of this urgent request and for your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Tareq Shrourou,  
**Director, Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights**