

= Bassem al @-@ Tamimi =

Bassem al @-@ Tamimi (Arabic : ????? ??????? , born c . 1967) is a Palestinian activist and an organizer of protests against Israeli settlement construction in the West Bank . He was convicted by an Israeli military court in 2011 for " sending people to throw stones , and holding a march without a permit " . Tamimi 's lawyers denied those charges saying ? He believes in passive resistance and says he never asked anyone to throw stones ? .

al @-@ Tamimi organizes weekly demonstrations against Israeli settlement . He has been arrested by the Israeli authorities over a dozen times , at one point spending more than three years in administrative detention without trial . Al @-@ Tamimi advocates grassroots , nonviolent resistance , but has stated his belief that stone @-@ throwing is an important symbol of Palestinian resistance to Israeli occupation . His 2011 arrest drew international attention , with the European Union describing him as a " human rights defender " and Amnesty International designating him a prisoner of conscience . He was arrested again in October 2012 for a demonstration in a supermarket , but released in early 2013 .

= = Background = =

Al @-@ Tamimi was ten weeks old at the time of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank in June 1967 and hid with his mother in a cave during the conflict . As a grassroots activist , he organized weekly demonstrations to protest the seizure of the village 's well by the nearby Israeli settlement of Halamish , established in 1977 . The protests regularly lead to violent clashes , with Palestinian youths throwing stones and Israeli forces firing on protesters with tear gas , rubber bullets , and water cannons . Since the end of 2009 , 64 people (13 % of the village 's population) has been arrested .

Prior to his 2011 arrest , al @-@ Tamimi had been arrested by Israeli authorities eleven times , at one point spending more than three years in administrative detention without trial . In 1993 , he lost consciousness for eight days after being shaken during an interrogation , and required surgery for removal of a subdural haematoma . His home has also been designated for demolition by Israel 's Civil Administration .

Al @-@ Tamimi is an admirer of Indian independence leader Mahatma Gandhi and believes that armed conflict against a more powerful Israeli opponent will only bring disaster . Al @-@ Tamimi states that he advocates nonviolent resistance , telling a reporter in 2011 , " Our strategic choice of a popular struggle ? as a means to fight the occupation taking over our lands , lives and future ? is a declaration that we do not harm human lives . The very essence of our activity opposes killing . " However , he has stated he is not concerned as to whether stone @-@ throwing is a form of violence , but views it instead as a symbol of Palestinian resistance : " We see our stones as our message . "

= = March 2011 arrest and trial = =

On 24 March 2011 al @-@ Tamimi was detained by Israeli forces following a demonstration . Following his arrest , he was charged with sending youths to throw stones , holding a march without a permit , incitement , and perverting the course of justice . He was subsequently held in a military prison for thirteen months . Amnesty International designated him a prisoner of conscience , " detained solely for his role in organizing peaceful protests against the encroachment onto Palestinian lands by Israeli settlers , " and called for his immediate and unconditional release .

On 27 April 2012 al @-@ Tamimi was released on 12 @,@ 000 shekels (US \$ 3 @,@ 193) bail due to a stroke suffered by his mother two weeks previous . An army prosecutor protested the release , stating that al @-@ Tamimi would " most definitely continue to use the status he received because of his arrest to influence young people to throw stones . "

Al @-@ Tamimi , during his trial , repeatedly questioned the legitimacy of the Israeli military court trying him as well as Israeli regulations regarding public gatherings . The military judge ultimately

found him guilty of sending stone @-@ throwers and illegal protesting but cleared him of the two more serious charges . She stated that testimony from a 14 @-@ year @-@ old witness had been inconsistent and therefore unusable and that she had found misrepresentations by interrogators about the content of the confession of another witness . Israeli activist Jonathan Pollak described al @-@ Tamimi 's partial exoneration as a " miracle " given the 99 @. @ 74 percent conviction rate of the military court . Before his sentencing al @-@ Tamimi stated that " the laws come from an occupying regime whose legitimacy I do not recognise . I don 't think even for a single minute that there is going to be justice done . " His lawyer denied al @-@ Tamimi 's involvement in stone throwing , stating that al @-@ Tamimi believed in passive resistance .

On 29 May , al @-@ Tamimi was sentenced to time served of thirteen months ' imprisonment , and an additional two suspended sentences . A military spokeswoman stated that the sentence had been suspended due to " irregularities in the trial " and al @-@ Tamimi 's " clean prison record " . Under the terms of al @-@ Tamimi 's suspended sentences , he would be imprisoned for two months if he participated in an illegal demonstration within two years of the sentencing , and imprisoned for seven months if he participated in " activity against the security forces " within five years . Responding to the suspended sentences , al @-@ Tamimi said , " I feel that my whole life is under the surveillance of the judge . "

Catherine Ashton , the European Union High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy , expressed the EU 's concern over the conviction and called on Israel to allow peaceful protests . She also condemned the interrogation of a minor without a lawyer in the investigation as a " violation of his rights . " Human Rights Watch stated that the conviction " violates [al @-@ Tamimi 's] right to freedom of assembly , while [the court 's] conviction of him on a second charge of urging children to throw stones on the basis of a child 's coercively @-@ obtained statement raises serious concerns about the fairness of his trial . "

= = October 2012 arrest = =

On 24 October , al @-@ Tamimi joined 80 other activists , both Palestinian and international , in a protest at a Rami Levy supermarket in the West Bank just north of Jerusalem . The activists carried banners reading " Boycott occupation and its products . " Al @-@ Tamimi was arrested during the protest , which the Israeli police called " an illegal demonstration . " Amnesty International again described him as a prisoner of conscience , stating " Once again , Bassem Tamimi is being held solely for peacefully exercising his rights to freedom of expression and assembly . " He was released in early 2013 .

On 2 November , his sixteen @-@ year @-@ old son Wa 'ed al @-@ Tamimi was also arrested during one of the weekly demonstrations in Nabi Salih . The charges against him were dismissed by a judge two weeks later .

= = Personal life = =

Al @-@ Tamimi has a wife , Nariman , and four children . In 2012 , a photograph of his daughter Ahed shaking her fist at an Israeli soldier became internationally famous , and she received an award in Istanbul , Turkey , meeting that nation 's prime minister , Recep Tayyip Erdogan .

In 1993 , al @-@ Tamimi 's sister , Bassama Tamimi died while visiting him in custody of the Israeli Army ; it is alleged that she was struck and pushed down a flight of stairs by an Israeli army interpreter . Bassem 's cousin Rushdi Muhammed Sa 'id Tamimi was convicted of the October 1993 murder of Haim Mizrahi , a settler from Beit El , he was released in 2013 . Bassem was arrested and reportedly tortured . In December 2011 , al @-@ Tamimi 's cousin Mustafa Tamimi was killed by a direct hit from a gas grenade fired at close range . In November 2012 , al @-@ Tamimi 's brother @-@ in @-@ law Rushdi Tamimi was shot and killed by Israeli soldiers .