

Ahed Tamimi Should Stay in Prison Because She Might Slap Again – Israeli Ethicist

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Global Research, January 16, 2018

[Mondoweiss](#) 15 January 2018

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)
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Featured image: Prof. Asa Kasher (Source: Mondoweiss)

*One month after she slapped a soldier in occupied Nabi Saleh, 16-year-old **Ahed Tamimi** faces a final [bail hearing](#) today at court.*

Tamimi has been imprisoned since December 19 for the December 15 incident. The Israeli prosecution is trying to [make Ahed Tamimi a terrorist](#).

And now Israel's greatest ethical authority (not by me though), **Professor Asa Kasher**, has come to join the chorus.

Yesterday, Kasher appeared as a commentator on Ahed's case. In news coverage for the Dutch NOS Journaal, he is seen viewing a video of her slap (see [link](#) from 7:47).

Here's the text of his short interview:

Kasher: "So she is permanently provocative. So I can understand the judge" [who has so far not released Ahed on bail, unlike her cousin [Nour](#), ed].

Interviewer: "But she's a minor. How can she be dangerous?"

Kasher: "Dangerous in the sense that she can slap the... slap another officer, and another... 'Dangerous' doesn't need to mean jeopardizing life. It means breaking law and order. I mean, not acting properly, to the extent that disturbs the people from accomplishing their missions."

Get it? Ahed has simply disturbed the soldiers from accomplishing their mission - which had included shooting her cousin Mohammed [in the face earlier that day](#), and occupying their village as they do daily. That's dangerous - because it's a really important mission. And Ahed could slap again, and again. Who knows, one day she could come to slap the Chief of Staff, and then all hell would break loose.

But it is Asa Kasher who is far more dangerous than Ahed Tamimi. Because he is a kind of moral authority, and particularly where Israel's military occupation is concerned, because he is the author of the Israel Defense Forces Ethics code (written in 1994). Kasher has recently also been commissioned by **Education Minister Naftali Bennett** to write an 'ethics code' for Israeli universities, the main [purpose of which](#) was to stifle any discussion of

Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS). The American Association of University Professors (AAUP) as well as the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) joined Israeli academics in condemning the document for its encroachment on academic freedom.

Kasher's ethical sensibility can be downright shocking. In 2008, he was [appointed](#) an 'objective expert' (despite his work for the military) in a case involving military experimentation with nerve gas – on Israeli soldiers. Eighteen Israeli paratroopers had filed a petition against the army, asserting that their induction into the paratroops (back in early 1970's) was conditioned on participating in the nerve gas experiment – with anthrax – an experiment that had failed at its first stage when it was conducted on animals. Kasher supported the principle of conducting such experiments.

“[T]he participation of soldiers in compulsory or reserve service in medical experiments in the military framework must be carried out in consideration of building the force or considerations of activating the force”, he said. He opined that this was balanced, because “It is permitted to endanger soldiers”, but only “on the condition that this is to save human lives”, he wrote.

Nonetheless, Kasher opined that there is no moral prohibition from hiding secret details about an experiment from soldiers.

“It could be that certain aspects of the medical experiment are secret, based on considerations of national security. It is better that the enemy will not be familiar with the army's abilities and its points of weakness”, he wrote.

So, it could be better not to tell the soldiers, according to Kasher, in case they tell “the enemy”.

“Some details of an experiment may be hidden from soldiers who have to decide whether to participate in it,” he continued. “Secrecy does not harm the principle of free consent.”

Wait, let me repeat that one:

“Secrecy does not harm the principle of free consent”.

Wow, what ethics. You let someone decide if they want to drink water or not, and you keep it secret that the water is actually poisoned. For Kasher, the water is still kosher. It's still “free consent” – the person just didn't know about the poison. Their problem.

Such a person, with such atavistic, corrupt, skewed morals and ethics, with such political bias, should not be taken seriously by anyone. It is a wonder he is a professor. But in Israel, Kasher is taken very seriously. And he's giving a kosher stamp not only for Ahd Tamimi's treatment until now, but for what is to come next. He is manufacturing consent for her further incarceration. The man who commissioned Kasher to write the mentioned 'ethics code' for universities, Education Minister Bennett, has also [suggested](#) that Ahd Tamimi, as well as her cousin Nour, spend “the rest of their days in prison”.

Will Bennett now commission Kasher to write a new 'ethics code' specifically legitimizing the indefinite detention of young girls for slapping soldiers? I am sure Kasher would be up to the challenge.

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