

Italian artist who painted mural of Palestinian heroine Ahed Tamimi arrested in Israel

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Israeli police have arrested the Italian graffiti artist who depicted Ahed Tamimi on a West Bank separation wall mural in Bethlehem, to coincide with the Palestinian teenage heroine's release from prison.

Agostino Chirwin, also known as 'Jorit Agoch,' wrote on his Instagram account *"We are in prison from Israeli army. Who can help us please do it"* on Saturday. He was detained with another Italian artist and a Palestinian, whose identities were not released, according to Reuters.

Earlier this week Chirwin, known for hyperrealistic murals of activists, painted a portrait of 17-year-old Tamimi on the wall that separates the West Bank and is regarded as a segregation barrier by Palestinians. The artist usually hides his identity with the help of a black cloth wrapped around his head but posts his murals on an Instagram account.

Border police say that painting on the wall is illegal, confirming the arrest to The Times of Israel. Their spokesman said the suspects tried to get away in their vehicle.

The mural had been created in time for Tamimi's release on Sunday. She was arrested last December for slapping an Israeli soldier in the West Bank village of Nebi Saleh. Footage of the confrontation went viral and the teenager's subsequent arrest and detention garnered international attention, with many

seeing her as [the poster-child](#) for Palestinian resistance against Israeli occupation. She was [sentenced](#) to eight months in prison.

Since Tamimi's arrest, a number of her family members, including her recently-shot cousin, her mother and her father have been arrested. Her mother is also expected to be released on Sunday.