



מנדוק המואמעב עב באוקא האנסאן
הקרן למגיני זכויות אדם
HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS FUND

Al-Araqib HRDs on Trial for Peaceful Protest: Argumentations to Punishment

After plea bargain, defense requests court not to convict the three

On November 20, the Be'er-Sheva court heard argumentations to punishment in the trial of three Al-Araqib residents, two women and a man, who were arrested in July 2016 during a demonstration against JNF works in the village, and charged with Obstructing a Policeman. In a plea bargain, the three confessed to the charge against them and agreed to have their punishment decided by the Magistrates court, whereas the prosecution agreed not to demand more than 3 months of probation.

In the same plea bargain, 4 other HRDs, who were also arrested on the same occasion, and charged with the same charge, were erased from the indictment. They included 2 workers of the Negev Coexistence Forum.

During argumentations to punishment, the defense argued that two of the HRDs are very young, and have no prior criminal record, and thus a conviction would have an unnecessary long-time effect on their life; and that the third is a mother of young children with limiting health conditions.

The defense also clarified that the three were arrested during a legitimate nonviolent demonstration, protesting JNF's violation of a court recommendation, that no side (the state or Bedouin residents) make irreversible changes on the land until the land dispute was settled in court.

Defense also demonstrated that JNF themselves realized their mistake, and several days later quit the village - the works haven't been resumed sense.

Therefore the defense requested not to convict any of the 3 HRDs, but to merely have them sign an obligation not to repeat a similar offense for a year.

The sentence will be given on January 23rd, 2018.

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