



منتدى التعايش السلمي في النقب من أجل المساواة المدنية
פורום דו קיום בנגב לשוויון אזרחי
Negev Coexistence Forum for Civil Equality



مندوق المدافعين عن حقوق الإنسان
הקרן למגני זכויות אדם
HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS FUND

February 28, 2021

Update: 15 Bedouin Citizens were Arrested for Protesting Appropriation of their Land

The Human Rights Defenders Fund (HRDF) and the Negev Coexistence Forum for Civil Equality (NCF) wish to update you on the recent arbitrary arrest of 15 Arab Bedouin citizens that protested State tractors ploughing their villages' land and cutting off a pipe that provides clean drinking water for residents.

On February 22nd, a State operation of land ploughing of 2,800 dunams reached the villages of al-Ġarrah, Al-Ru'ays and Sa'wah. Residents of nearby villages and supporters participated in a demonstration, calling for recognition of their villages, and requesting the State to stop demolitions and ploughing of lands. The operation was accompanied by large police forces who violently arrested those trying to prevent the tractors from ploughing their soils and from cutting off a pipe providing drinking water for the residents.

During the demonstration, 11 people including a minor were arrested and detained in a police vehicle from the morning hours until the evening without any food or water. Four other protesters were arrested in the afternoon and taken to the police station. Towards the evening, 11 of the protesters were released, one of them was released by the Court the following day, while three still remain in custody.

Adv. Shahda Ibn Bari from the Human Rights Defenders Fund (HRDF), who was present at the police station where the 15 detainees were taken, stated: "The basic rights of the arrested residents were breached, being locked up in one police car from the morning until the evening hours and afterwards interrogated at length without access to water or food. They were not given their basic right to consult with a lawyer".

We would like to highlight that the Police's conduct toward the Arab Bedouin citizens is unacceptable and constitutes a violation of freedom of expression, breaching international standards recognized in several instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, among others.

HRDF and NCF will continue to support indigenous Bedouin defenders active in the struggle for land rights, human rights and recognition, who face ongoing legal and physical prosecution.

If you have any further questions regarding these and other matters concerning the valiant struggle of the Bedouin residents of al-Ġarrah, Al-Ru'ays and Sa'wah and the Bedouin community to continue their



منتدى التعايش السلمي في النقب من أجل المساواة المدنية
פורום דו קיום בנגב לשוויון אזרחי
Negev Coexistence Forum for Civil Equality



מנדוק המדפינים מן حقوق الانسان
הקרן למגיני זכויות אדם
HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS FUND

traditional way of life on their ancestral land, please contact NCF and HRDF's International Advocacy Coordinators.

Elianne Kremer
Negev Coexistence Forum for Civil Equality
intl.advocacy@dukium.org

Noa Amrami
Human Rights Defenders Fund
noa@hrdf.org.il