



ADALAH MEDIA ADVISORY

5 December 2011

Magistrates' Court to Issue Decisions on Home Demolitions and Evacuation of Two Unrecognized Arab Bedouin Villages in the Naqab (Negev)

**Tuesday 6 December, 13:30 (Alsira)
Sunday 11 December, 13:30 (Umm al-Hieran)**

(Beer el-Sabe) On Monday 6 and Sunday 11 December 2011, the Kiryat Gat Magistrates' Court will issue two precedent-setting rulings on the demolition and evacuation of the unrecognized Arab Bedouin villages of Alsira and Umm el-Hieran.

On 6 December 2011, the Court will decide whether or not to cancel *ex parte* home demolition orders that threaten to destroy the entire village of Alsira, a decision that could leave over 500 Arab Bedouin citizens of Israel homeless.

Similarly, on 11 December 2011, the Court will deliver a decision on 33 *ex parte* demolition orders issued against almost all homes in Umm el-Hieran.

Adalah Attorney Suhad Bishara is representing the villagers. She notes that the decisions "are the first of this magnitude, where the rulings will impact the continued existence of two entire villages"

BACKGROUND

Alsira – Kiryat Gat Magistrates' Court, Monday 6 December 2011, 13:30

The unrecognized village of Alsira pre-dates the establishment of the State of Israel. The 70 Arab Bedouin families, citizens of Israel, have inhabited their ancestral land for at least the last seven generations. The villagers, whose land claims were recognized by the British Mandate, also filed their claims with Israel in the 1970s, in accordance with the Israeli Land Registration Ordinance. Nonetheless, the State views them as trespassers illegally squatting on state land. In 2006, villagers began receiving notices of home demolitions and immediately contacted state authorities, but the officials did not propose any alternative solution or accept solutions suggested by the villagers. In 2007, Adalah succeeded to freeze the home demolition orders that exist on almost all of the homes and structures of Alsira. On 6 December 2011, the Court will decide whether to cancel the orders or to endorse the State's position to forcibly demolish and evacuate the entire village.

Kiryat Gat Magistrates' Court, Different Motions 2137/09, Mousa Nasasra v. State of Israel

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Atir-Umm el-Hieran, Kiryat Gat Magistrates' Court, Sunday 11 December 2011, 13:30

The unrecognized village of Atir-Umm el-Hieran was established over fifty years ago, following the forced relocation of Arab Bedouin citizens of Israel to the area in 1956 by order of the Regional Military Governor. The village's inhabitants were provided with approximately 7,000 dunams of land to live on and cultivate. In 2003, the State of Israel began its attempts through evacuation lawsuits and *ex parte* demolition orders to forcibly displace the nearly 1,000 residents of the villages. The State's intention is to demolish and evacuate the villages, and to subsequently establish the Jewish town of "Hiran" on the same land. On 11 December 2011, the Court will rule on the demolition orders against 33 homes in Umm el-Hiran, and set critical precedent.

Kiryat Gat Magistrates' Court, Different Motions 2136/09, Abu el-Qian Rateb, et al. v. The State of Israel

For more information see:

[Adalah Press Release on Freezing of Demolition Orders in Alsira, 16 August 2007](#)

[Adalah Report "Nomads Against their Will" about the village of Umm el-Hieran](#)

[See Video about Umm el-Hieran](#)

[See photos of the villages](#)

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