

AL-TURI FAMILY

AL-ARAQIB



Prior to the 1948 war, the Bedouin population wandered freely in the Negev desert. In 1953, the Israeli army ordered many of the Bedouin, among them the villagers of Al-Araqib, to abandon their lands for six months. During this time the army used the land for military exercises. To this day, the right of the Bedouins to return to their land has not been recognized. In the 1950s, a small number of Bedouin managed to return to their land in the village of Al-Araqib. The families understood that if they did not return they would ultimately lose all rights to their land. Because the villages are “unrecognized” they have no infrastructure: no electricity or water, no health and educational services, and no road and sewage systems. The Israeli authorities have made the lives of the villagers impossible. Those who returned suffer from the repeated destruction of their homes and agricultural crops. Between July 27, 2010 and the end of 2011, structures in the village were demolished 33 times, but the residents continue to struggle and refuse to leave their ancestral land. *Source: ICAHD/www.enddemolitionsnow.org*