



Press Release – for immediate release
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Human Rights Organization Yesh Din:

**HJC order indicates decision not to file an indictment in
Abir Aramin case - "wrong"**

More than three years after the death of 10 year old Abir Aramin, the HJC issued an interlocutory order asking the Israeli Attorney General to explain the decision to close the case without filing indictments. "We hope that the Authorities will act in the vein of the High Court of Justice's ruling – which contests the Prosecution's claim that there is not enough evidence for indictments", says Attorney Michael Sfar, Yesh Din's legal advisor

Human rights organization Yesh Din calls on the Israeli authorities to reopen the investigation file into the death of Palestinian girl Abir Aramin. More than three years after the death of the 10 year old schoolgirl, the Israeli High Court of Justice issued an interlocutory, asking the Prosecution to explain its decision to close the investigation of Aramin's death without filing indictments.

The order, issued in the framework of the petition filed by Yesh Din in 2008, requires that the State Attorney explain within 45 days why he should not re-open the investigation file, conduct further investigations, and consider indicting the two Border Policemen who are allegedly responsible for Abir's death.

"Had Abir Aramin been a Jewish girl, we would be after a full trial and possibly a conviction", says Attorney Michael Sfar, Yesh Din's legal advisor. "We hope that the Authorities will act in the vein of the HJC ruling – which contests the Prosecution's claim that there is not enough evidence for indictments in the case".

Background information:

10 year old Abir Aramin was killed by her school in Anata, North-East of Jerusalem, in January 2007. She died from a fatal injury to her head, when she went to buy a snack between classes.

Eyewitnesses said Abir was injured from shots fired by Border Policemen. The policemen, who were on patrol in the village that day, admitted in their investigation that they used demonstration dispersion means, including rubber bullets, after a clash erupted between them and local residents.

At the request of Abir's family and Combatants for Peace, the human rights organization Yesh Din began investigating the circumstances of the incident. Yesh Din's legal advisor, Atty. Michael Sfar, was appointed to represent the Aramin family before the Israeli authorities. The young girl's father, Bassam is one of the founders of Combatants for Peace.

In July 2007 the Jerusalem District Attorney's Office announced its decision to close the investigation file on the due to lack of evidence. The District Attorney's Office concluded it was impossible to determine whether Abir had been killed by a rubber bullet fired by policemen or by stones thrown, according to the Border Policeman, by youths from the village. Yesh Din appealed the decision but the appeal was rejected.

On behalf of the girl's parents, Yesh Din then filed a petition to the High Court of Justice asking it to instruct the Attorney General to file an indictment against the border policemen on the charge of killing Abir.

The evidence collected by Yesh Din completely rules out the possibility that the girl was hit by stones. The organization claims that the decision to close the investigation file was based mainly on clear and obvious factual errors.

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