

Islam from the
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Documentary History of Islam
1.

A letter from 'Aydhab

Testimony submitted in our presence, of the witnesses whose signatures are appended.

We were present in 'Aydhab, and on Tuesday the 21st of the month of Tevet of the year [blank space] Abū Sa'id ibn Maḥfūḥ known as Ibn Jamāhir, entered the governor's audience and laid a complaint against Ṣāfi, the slave of Shaykh Abū Sa'id ibn [Dosa] and asked for help against him. The governor summoned the slave Ṣāfi and Abū Sa'id himself summoned witnesses from among the Muslims of those with whom he sat and they testified for Abū Sa'id that this Ṣāfi had offended against him and that Ṣāfi had said to Abū Sa'id something unrepeatable and [?] abused him and said to him: You had a slavegirl and you got her with child and when she bore you a son, you drove her away [?] while still suckling to Barbera. Abū Sa'id appealed ^{at} the governor's audience and demanded justice against his adversary Ṣāfi. A messenger went out from the governor to collect the Jews who were in the city and to bring them to his audience. Some of them were absent and some of them came, brought by the runners. When the governor heard Abū Sa'id's appeal he gave orders to beat Ṣāfi and he shouted and appealed against this order, saying 'I am the slave of the head of the Meshiva', while Abū Sa'id

was saying 'I will not forego my right.' And after the beating, the governor gave orders to imprison him and he was arrested in the presence of his adversary who had brought a complaint against him, and in the presence of all those Jews who were at the governor's audience. Before the beating of the slave Šāfi, one of the Maghribī merchants went to the governor's house in order to release the slave, and when Abū Sa'īd ibn Jamāhir learnt that he was seeking to release the slave, he began to incite some of the Muslims against this foreigner, and they caused him trouble and imposed punishment on him after threatening him. Šāfi was only released from imprisonment at some cost. This is what happened and we wrote ^{it} in the last decade of the month of Tevet of the year ... of the creation in the city of 'Aydhāb which lies on the shore of the Red Sea.

Geniza document, in
Tarbitz
Goitein, xci, 186-7.