

TITLE: GROOM LAKE GURU WILL FIGHT COURT'S JUDGMENT

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For Groom Lake secret base gadfly Glenn Campbell, wrangling with the law atop Freedom Ridge has turned to wrangling in Nevada courts on an obstruction-of-justice charge.

Campbell, who locked the doors of a news crew's truck July 19 to prevent a Lincoln County sheriff's deputy from seizing footage shot on the hill overlooking the Air Force's secret test facility, has vowed to appeal his Friday conviction to District Court in Ely.

He said the punishment imposed by Ely Justice of the Peace Ronald Niman -- a \$315 fine and five days of community service -- is not so much the issue as the seizure of the tapes.

"Effectively, what has happened is that the Air Force, when a news crew is covering the story out there... can call the sheriff's department and seize the film, thereby suppressing the story," said Campbell.

Campbell had agreed to accompany a news crew from a Los Angeles NBC station to the hill overlooking the base, but had warned them that government secrecy rules prohibit photographing the base.

The crew interviewed Campbell on the ridge, but the photographer had his back to the base so as not to violate the rules. However, private security guards who patrol the perimeter of the base called Lincoln County deputies to investigate.

When a deputy came to the base [of Freedom Ridge], the crew photographed him as well, and he insisted on seizing the tapes because the crew had allegedly pointed their cameras at the base's border.

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