

URGENT ACTION

SAUDI WOMAN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER RELEASED

On 27 June, Saudi Arabian human rights defender and women's rights activist Nassima al-Sada was conditionally released from detention upon the expiry of her prison term sentence. Nassima al-Sada will continue to be on a travel ban for five years, which restricts her basic right to freedom to movement and expression. Amnesty International calls on the Saudi Arabian authorities to lift the travel ban immediately.

NO FURTHER ACTION IS REQUESTED. MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO SENT APPEALS.

Nassima al-Sada, a Saudi Arabian women's rights activist and human rights defender who has campaigned for civil and political rights, women's rights and the rights of the Shi'a minority in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia for many years, was released from prison on 27 June after almost three years and a half in detention for her peaceful activism. Nassima al-Sada is known for demanding Saudi women's right to drive and calling for an end to the repressive guardianship laws in the Kingdom.

Nassima al-Sada was arbitrarily arrested and detained without charge or trial from July 2018 until June 2019, when she appeared for her first court session. After a year, she was charged with unspecified crimes based on the cybercrime law. She was also placed in solitary confinement from February 2019 until the beginning 2020. After months of delays and prolonged detention without trial, and due to mounting international pressure contributed to by Amnesty International's extensive campaigning on the case, the Saudi authorities [resumed the trials of detained women activists](#), including Nassima al-Sada. And on 25 November 2020 the verdict, which was based on cybercrime laws but failed to specify the exact crimes allegedly committed by the activist, was delivered. Nassima al-Sada appealed the sentence.

In March 2021, the Court of Appeals in Riyadh upheld the verdict, confirming the final sentence of a five-year prison term followed by a five-year travel ban on Nassima al-Sada. She served the full prison term and on 27 June 2021 was conditionally released and placed under a travel ban of five years. Amnesty International will through alternative avenues continue to call on the Saudi Arabian authorities to quash Nassima al-Sada's conviction and lift the travel ban immediately, to ensure the activist's right to freedom of movement and expression.

Nassima al-Sada's family is grateful for Amnesty International and its activists for their efforts in mobilizing the international community and public opinion to secure her release.

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: Nassima al-Sada (she/her)

THIS IS THE THIRD AND FINAL OUTPUT FOR UA 21/19

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde23/3981/2021/en/>

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