URGENT ACTION

ARBITRARILY DETAINED SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVIST FREED

Social media activist and rickshaw driver Sadia Moalim Ali was released after 123 days in detention. She was arrested on 12 April and detained in connection with her activism on social media and participation in peaceful protests. On 12 August, the Banadir Court of Appeal overturned her conviction and three-year prison sentence, leading to her release on the same day. Her arbitrary arrest, detention, prosecution and conviction were linked solely to the peaceful exercise of her human rights.

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

On 12 August, the Court of Appeal quashed **Sadia Moalim Ali**'s conviction, securing her release and reunion with her family.

On 12 April, Sadia Moalim Ali - a 27-year-old tuk-tuk (rickshaw) driver and social media activist - was arrested in Hodan District, Mogadishu, the capital, by officers from the National Intelligence and Security Agency. Her arrest and subsequent arbitrary detention was in connection to the peaceful expression of her views online as she has used her social media platforms, including Facebook and TikToK, to publicly criticize the federal government, speaking out mostly against the alleged corruption in government, youth unemployment, nepotism by senior government officials, high taxation and high fuel prices.

On 25 June, the Banaadir Regional Court found Sadia Moalim Ali guilty of 'insulting government institutions' and sentenced her to three years in prison. There were grave concerns that her trial did not meet international fair trial standards.

Her case was emblematic of the Somali authorities' systematic and escalating crackdown on human rights since 2022, including against the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, using arbitrary arrests, detention, harassment, threats, and intimidation to silence journalists, media houses, activists, and others who peacefully express dissenting views.

Amnesty International's Urgent Action for Sadia Moalim Ali (launched two weeks after her arrest) contributed significantly to securing her freedom. The international attention it generated, together with the rapid sequence of events, suggest that the mobilisation of the Amnesty International movement played an important role in securing her immediate and unconditional release.

Amnesty International spoke with Sadia Moalim Ali following her release. She shared this message:

'*To my friends at Amnesty International and all those who took action on my behalf, thank you. Even while I was in detention, I felt that you stood beside me every day and every night. Your solidarity gave me strength and reminded me that I was not alone. My release is not only a victory for me and my family, but also a victory against injustice. I share this moment with Amnesty International and its supporters around the world because you stood with me throughout my detention. You are my brothers and sisters, and I will always be grateful for your support.*'

NAME AND PRONOUN: Sadia Moalim Ali (she/her)

THIS IS THE SECOND AND FINAL OUTPUT FOR UA 36/26

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr52/0919/2026/en/

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