

URGENT ACTION

RELEASE ARBITRARILY DETAINED ACTIVIST

On 12 April, Sadia Moalim Ali, a tuktuk (rickshaw) driver and social activist, was arrested in Mogadishu, Somalia's capital, by officers of the National Intelligence Agency for her activism – both on social media and in peaceful protests. She was initially detained at Hamar Jajab Police Station for two days before being transferred to the Mogadishu Central Prison on 14 April where she remains detained. Her family is not aware of any formal charges against her, but credible sources have told Amnesty International that the police secured orders from the Banadir Regional Court allowing them to hold her for 90 days pending further investigations. Her detention is linked solely to the peaceful exercise of her human rights. Amnesty International urges the Somali authorities to immediately and unconditionally release her.

TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER

HE Hassan Sheikh Mohamud

President of the Federal Republic of Somalia

Office of the President

Villa Somalia, Mogadishu, Somalia

Email: info@presidency.gov.so

X: @HassanSMohamud

Dear President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud,

I am concerned about the arbitrary detention of **Sadia Moalim Ali** (also known as “Sadia Bajaj”) who is being targeted by the Somali authorities for her activism – both on social media and in peaceful protests.

Sadia Moalim Ali is 27-year-old tuk-tuk (rickshaw) driver and social activist who was arrested on 12 April in Hodan District, Mogadishu, the capital, by officers from the National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA). She was initially detained at Hamar Jajab Police Station before being transferred to the Mogadishu Central Prison on 14 April, where she remains held. She had no access to a lawyer, and her family is not aware of any formal charges against her, but credible sources told Amnesty International that the police secured orders from the Banadir Regional Court allowing them to hold her for 90 days pending further investigations. Sadia Moalim Ali is being targeted by the authorities solely 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. In one video she said that if any harm were to come to her, responsibility would lie with the [President](#).

Since mid-to-late 2022, Somali authorities have engaged in a systematic and escalating crackdown on human rights including 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 other people who peacefully express dissenting views. This widespread targeting constitutes a clear violation of Somalia's obligations under international human rights law, to which the government is bound. It is imperative that Somali authorities uphold their national and international human rights obligations and commitments, including to respect and ensure the rights to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly and media freedom.

I urge you and your government to immediately and unconditionally release Sadia Moalim Ali, as she is detained solely for the peaceful exercise of her human rights. Pending her release, I urge you and your government to ensure she is held in conditions that adhere to international human rights standards, protected from torture and other ill-treatment, and has immediate and regular access to her family, lawyers, and adequate health care.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This is not the first time Sadia Moalim Ali has been arrested for her activism, she was previously arrested on 12 March for protesting increased fuel prices, taken to court, and was released after four days of detention, further indicating a pattern of targeting in relation to her peaceful exercise of the right to protest.

Since mid-to-late 2022 when President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud took office, the rights to freedom of expression, association, peaceful assembly and media freedom, have been severely restricted in Somalia. Journalists and other activists have been attacked by security forces and subjected to threats, harassment, intimidation, beatings, arbitrary arrests and unfair prosecution.

Since 2025, the government stepped up attempts to control and censor journalists reporting on public interest issues, including insecurity and forced evictions. On 16 March, the minister for information issued a directive banning the publication of “statements or news that could threaten national security” or “that directly or indirectly misuses or fabricates information.”

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: English

You can also write in your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: 24 August 2026

Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

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