

URGENT ACTION

ANTIRACISM FIGURE FACING EIGHT YEARS IN PRISON

On March 19, 2026, a Tunis court sentenced Black Tunisian woman human rights defender, **Saadia Mosbah**, president of antiracist organization, Mnementy (“My dream”), to eight years in prison, after nearly two years in arbitrary pretrial detention. The court handed down prison terms ranging from one to three years against five other Mnementy staff and associates. Saadia Mosbah and her colleagues were prosecuted on unfounded financial criminal charges stemming from their human rights work, as part of a crackdown on civil society supported by racist public discourse. Saadia Mosbah reported racist abuse in detention, including a physical assault. Tunisian authorities must quash their convictions and immediately release Saadia Mosbah.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter below as a guide or use your own words.
- [Click here](#) to report your action(s) on **UA 23.26**. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

President of the Republic Kais Saied

Route de la Goulette
Site archéologique de Carthage, Tunisie
Email: contact@carthage.tn
X: @TnPresidency

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mohamed Ali Nafti

Email: email.dct@diplomatie.gov.tn

Ministry of Justice, Leila Jaffel

Email: info@e-justice.tn

Send a copy of your letter to the address below

CC: Tunisian Embassy in the United States Ambassador Hanene Al-Tajouri Bessassi

1515 Massachusetts Avenue, NW,
Washington DC 20005

Email: AT.Washington@Tunisianembassy.org

Your Excellency,

I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release woman human rights defender, **Saadia Mosbah**, who has been arbitrarily detained since May 2024. She is the president of anti-racism organization, Mnementy (“My dream”), founded in 2013. On March 19, 2026, the Tunis Court of First Instance sentenced her to eight years in prison and a fine exceeding TND 120,000 (about EUR 36,000). She was prosecuted alongside **eight other Mnementy staff members and associates** on unfounded financial criminal charges related to their human rights work.

Prior to the judicial investigation, Mnementy was targeted by a smear campaign led by pro-government social media accounts amid a surge in anti-Black and xenophobic rhetoric by public officials that has fueled racist violence. In detention, Saadia Mosbah reported racial discrimination including a racist physical assault by a prison guard and a denial of adequate medical care. The other defendants also endured racial discrimination during the investigation.

I urge you to ensure the immediate release of Saadia Mosbah and the quashing of the conviction and sentence against her and the five other Mnementy staff members. I call on you to investigate allegations of racist ill-treatment against Saadia Mosbah, which may amount to torture, and to cease using the criminal justice system against human rights defenders while respecting the rights to freedom of expression and association.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In May 2024, the Tunisian authorities launched a [repressive clampdown](#) against civil society organizations working on migration and against discrimination. A xenophobic and racist smear campaign led by progovernment social media accounts preceded the arrests, mainly targeting the anti-racist organization Mnementy and its founder **Saadia Mosbah**. In parallel, Tunisian president Kais Saied [accused](#) organizations working on migration of being “traitors” and “foreign agents”.

On May 7, 2024, Tunis police arrested Saadia Mosbah after questioning her and Mnementy’s project manager about their NGO work, the funding they receive, and their public positions on racism and migration. On May 16, 2024, an investigative judge at the Tunis Court of First Instance opened a criminal investigation against Saadia Mosbah and **eight other Mnementy staff members and associates**, including their Tunis office landlord, and placed Saadia Mosbah in pretrial detention without a hearing. The judge renewed her detention in November 2024 and again, in March 2025, and has refused multiple requests for provisional release.

On July 3, 2025, the investigative judge concluded the investigation and retained the charges of “illicit enrichment” and failure to maintain accounting records against Saadia Mosbah while dismissing all charges against the other eight individuals for lack of evidence. On July 15, 2025, an indictment chamber overturned the judge’s decision, indicting all nine for three charges. On December 22, 2025, in violation of Tunisian penal procedures, the trial opened at the Tunis Court of First Instance before the Cassation Court had ruled on the appeals lodged by the defendants and the prosecution against the indictment. As a result, the examination of the case was postponed three times until the Cassation Court rejected the appeal on March 10, 2026.

Analysis of casefile documents including the court-mandated financial expertise indicates that the charges of “illicit enrichment” and money laundering are unsubstantiated. Furthermore, racist comments made orally by the court-mandated financial experts against two Black defendants during the investigation, accusing them of “helping [racist slur for Black people]” and promising to “put them in prison for it”, in addition to the experts’ refusal to examine financial documentation seized by the police during the search of Mnementy’s Tunis office, has undermined the integrity of the investigation and the defendants’ right to a fair trial. A police agent at the Tunis Court of First Instance also systematically obstructed access to court for one of the Black defendants without justification, raising concern about possible racial discrimination.

Saadia Mosbah, 66, is detained at Belli prison (50km southeast of Tunis). She has several health and mobility issues. She reported that a prison guard repeatedly subjected her to racist insults and mockery, obstructed one of her medical appointments and physically assaulted her in February 2026. Authorities have yet to inform her of the opening of an investigation into the allegations despite the prison administration having been informed. According to her family, authorities also failed to provide her with adequate medication and healthcare.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Arabic, French, English, or your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: September 30, 2026

NAME AND PRONOUN: Saadia Mosbah (she/her)