

URGENT ACTION

RELEASE ARBITRARILY DETAINED ACTIVIST

On April 12, 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 April 14 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 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 36.26**. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

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

Send copies of your letter to:
CC: Dahir Hassan Abdi
Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Somali to the
U.S.
1609 22nd Street, NW
Washington, DC 20008

Dear President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud,

I am concerned about the arbitrary detention of 27-year-old tuk-tuk driver and social activist **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 was arrested on April 12 in Hodan District, Mogadishu by officers from the National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA). She was held at Hamar Jajab Police Station before being transferred to the Mogadishu Central Prison on April 14, where she remains. She had no access to a lawyer, and her family is not aware of any formal charges against her. 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.

I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Sadia Moalim Ali, as she is detained solely for peacefully exercising her human rights. Pending her release, please 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: August 24, 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)