

URGENT ACTION

SENTENCE UPHELD FOR ANTI-RACISM ACTIVIST

On June 23, 2026, a Tunis court upheld the conviction and eight-year prison sentence imposed on human rights defender Saadia Mosbah, president of the anti-racism organization Mnemty, based on unfounded financial criminal charges. The court also upheld the convictions of five Mnemty staff members and associates but suspended the sentences for four of them, while confirming the three-year absentia sentence against fifth defendant. On June 29, Saadia Mosbah and her colleagues submitted a final appeal before the Court of Cassation which, if accepted, would lead to a retrial. Tunisian authorities must immediately quash the convictions and 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 **Second 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

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 am concerned about the unjust conviction of prominent anti-racism activist, **Saadia Mosbah**. She has been arbitrarily detained since May 2024 and remains imprisoned solely because of her legitimate human rights work against racism and discrimination.

On June 23, 2026, the Tunis Court of Appeals upheld the unjust convictions handed by the Tunis Court of First Instance on March 19, 2026. The court confirmed the eight-year prison sentence against Saadia Mosbah along with a fine of over TND 120,000 [about EUR 36,000]. The court suspended the sentences for four of her colleagues after reducing them to one and two years but confirmed a three-year prison sentence against a fifth defendant in her absence.

Saadia Mosbah was initially prosecuted alongside eight other staff members and associates of Mnemty on unsubstantiated charges of money laundering and “illicit enrichment” related to their human rights work. The investigation did not uncover any illegal sources of funding and relied on an abusive interpretation of the crime of “illicit enrichment” which lacks clarity. Saadia Mosbah, 66, reported that a prison guard repeatedly subjected her to racist insults, obstructed one of her medical appointments, and physically assaulted her in February 2026. Despite notifying the prison administration of this abuse, the authorities have yet to open an investigation into the allegations.

I urge you to immediately release Saadia Mosbah and quash the conviction and sentence against her and her colleagues as they are solely related to the exercise of their human rights work. Moreover, I call on you to open an investigation into the allegations of racist ill-treatment against Saadia Mosbah.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In May 2024, six human rights defenders and NGO workers were arrested and arbitrarily detained as the Tunisian authorities launched a [repressive clampdown](#) against civil society organizations working on migration and against discrimination. Five of them were later [sentenced](#) to prison while the crackdown [extended](#) to include a broader range of organizations. A xenophobic and racist smear campaign led by pro-government social media accounts preceded the arrests, mainly targeting the anti-racist organization Mnementy and its founder, **Saadia Mosbah**.

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. Authorities investigated them for "illicit enrichment" and money laundering, as well as failing to maintain adequate accounting records, a misdemeanor sanctioned by a fine. 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 all three charges. The investigation has not found proof of an original crime allegedly covered by laundered funds or evidence of any "enrichment" as defined by Tunisian legislation. Instead, it relied on an abusive interpretation of the term "legitimacy". It considered that Mnementy staff's alleged failure to comply with tax obligations and the financial experts' misinformed assessment that some staff members' positions and salaries did not align with their qualifications was evidence that the origin of their funds was not "legitimate". The investigation also highlighted unjustified bank transfers between the association and its staff. The defendants explained these transfers as reimbursements for travel expenses or other payments made from staff members' bank accounts on a few occasions when the association's treasurer was abroad or when the association's checkbook had been lost.

Furthermore, racist comments made 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.

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

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: December 16, 2026

NAME AND PRONOUN: Saadia Mosbah (She/Her)

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/tunisia-antiracism-figure-facing-eight-years-in-prison/>