

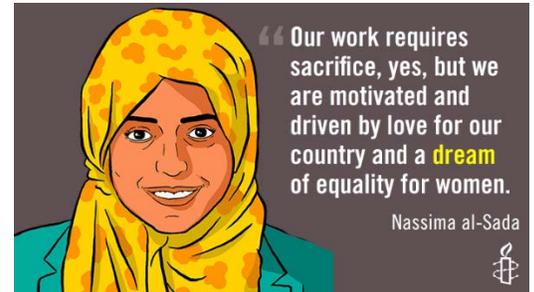


Urgent Action Office 3-1992 Yonge Street Toronto ON M4S 1Z7 Phone: (416) 363-9933 Fax: (416) 363-3103 [urgentaction@amnesty.ca](mailto:urgentaction@amnesty.ca)

UA 21/19, **UPDATE 1**, AI Index: MDE 23/3981/2021 of 14 April 2021  
The original index is MDE 23/9874/2019 of 20 February 2019

## SAUDI ARABIA FREE SAUDI RIGHTS ACTIVIST NASSIMA AL-SADA

In March 2021, the Court of Appeals in Riyadh upheld the verdict of Saudi Arabian woman human rights defender Nassima al-Sada, confirming the final sentence of a five-year prison term followed by a five-year travel ban. Nassima al-Sada had appealed the sentence handed down to her on 25 November 2020, which was based on cybercrime laws but failed to specify the exact crimes allegedly committed by the activist. Nassima al-Sada is detained simply for her peaceful activism for civil and political rights, and for her advocacy for women's rights and the end of the repressive male guardianship system.



### Please ask the King to:

- Immediately and unconditionally release Nassima al-Sada and overturn her conviction and sentence.
- Respect Nassima al-Sada's right to movement by lifting the travel ban imposed on her.

### Write to:

His Majesty King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud  
Office of His Majesty the King  
Royal Court, Riyadh  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
Fax: 011 966 11 403 3125 (please keep trying)  
Twitter: @KingSalman

### Please copy:

Mr. Sulaiman Abdulkareem M. Al Aqueel  
Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy for Saudi Arabia  
201 Sussex Drive  
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 1K6  
Fax: 613 237 0567  
Phone: 613 237 4100  
Via website: [embassies.mofa.gov.sa/sites/canada/EN/Ambassador/Pages/Contact.aspx](https://embassies.mofa.gov.sa/sites/canada/EN/Ambassador/Pages/Contact.aspx)

## **Additional Information**

Nassima al-Sada is an activist, human rights educator and mother of three who has campaigned for civil and political rights, women's rights and the rights of the Shi'a minority in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia for many years. She stood in municipal elections in 2015 but was banned from participating. She has also campaigned for the right of women to drive and for the end of male guardianship system.

Nassima al-Sada was detained without charge or trial from July 2018 until June 2019 when she appeared for her first court session. She was also placed in solitary confinement from February 2019 until the beginning 2020. After months of delays and prolonged detention without trial, and due to mounting international pressure, Saudi authorities [resumed trials of detained women activists](#), including Nassima al-Sada, on 25 November 2020.

The Saudi Arabian authorities continue to arbitrarily detain without charges and try individuals for their peaceful expression and human rights work. Amongst those are: [Mohammed al-Bajadi](#), founding member of the Saudi Civil and Political Rights Association (ACPRA) and A prominent human rights defender who has been detained without charges or trial since May 2018; and [Salman al-Awda](#), a reformist cleric who faces a death sentence for the peaceful expression of his views.