

# URGENT ACTION

## GRAND PRIX PROTESTER RELEASED AFTER PARDON

**Rayhana al-Mousawi, one of two women protesters at the 2013 Bahrain Grand Prix, has been released as part of a royal pardon on 20 April. The other woman, Nafeesa al-'Asfoor, was released on 2 July 2015.**

Protester **Rayhana al-Mousawi** was released from 'Issa Town Women Detention Centre on 20 April, five years before her prison sentence would have come to an end. She and another protester, **Nafeesa al-'Asfoor** had received a royal pardon in 2015 for their five-year prison sentence after attempting to enter the Formula 1 circuit during a protest at the Bahrain Grand Prix in 2013. Nafeesa al-'Asfoor was released on 2 July 2015 following the royal pardon, while Rayhana al-Mousawi's release was delayed until she had completed a three year prison sentence from a separate case.

Rayhana al-Mousawi and Nafeesa al-'Asfoor were arrested in April 2013 and sentenced in April 2014 to five years in prison for "possession of explosives" and "planning to commit terrorist acts" under the anti-terrorism law after they had attempted to enter the Formula 1 circuit in 2013. Both women denied the charges.

In a separate case, Rayhana al-Mousawi had also been sentenced to an additional five years' imprisonment "for belonging to and sharing activities with a terrorist organization [the 14 February Coalition]", which was reduced to three years on appeal. Amnesty International raised concerns about the unfairness of the trial.

Both women had complained to the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) that they had been tortured and otherwise ill-treated after their arrest, but it is not known if the SIU has completed its investigation or closed the case.

**No further action is requested by the UA Network. Amnesty International will continue to monitor Rayhana al-Mousawi and Nafeesa al-'Asfoor's situation. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.**

This is the fourth update of UA 232/13. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde11/2040/2015/en/>

Further information on UA: 232/13 Index: MDE 11/3929/2016 Issue Date: 4 May 2016

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