

ADVOCACY DOSSIER

ABDALLAH SAÏD

عبد الله سعيد

Imprisoned (serving sentence) **Tunisia**

Abdallah Saïd, a doctor and president of the Enfants de la Lune association in Médenine, which helps migrant and refugee children, was arrested on 12 November 2024. The state security and money laundering charges were dropped and he was tried on a financial charge. He was sentenced to one year in prison in April 2026, raised to two years on appeal in September 2026.

HuMENA.

Prepared by HuMENA for Human Rights and Civic Engagement · 8 November 2026

Case reference HM-TN-2024-001

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THE CASE AT A GLANCE

Abdallah Saïd, a doctor and president of the Enfants de la Lune association in Médenine, which helps migrant and refugee children, was arrested on 12 November 2024. The state security and money laundering charges were dropped and he was tried on a financial charge. He was sentenced to one year in prison in April 2026, raised to two years on appeal in September 2026.

STATUS	**Imprisoned (serving sentence)**
ARRESTED	**12 Nov 2024**
COUNTRY	**Tunisia**
CHARGES	**Financial offence linked to the association's funding (tried and convicted; exact charge not published)** **Money laundering (dropped at the close of the investigation)** **Formation of a criminal association (outcome not published)** **Undermining the external security of the State (dropped at the close of the investigation)**

WE CALL ON THE AUTHORITIES TO:

WHAT WE ASK

01 Release Abdallah Saïd immediately and unconditionally.

02 Drop all charges related to the peaceful exercise of fundamental rights.

03 Ensure unrestricted access to legal counsel, family, and adequate medical care while in detention.

Latest updates on this case
Scan the code or visit:
https://humena.org/defenders/abdallah-said/

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DOCUMENTED VIOLATIONS

	INTERNATIONAL STANDARD
Arbitrary detention	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 9
Criminalisation of solidarity	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Articles 21, 22 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Article 5
Judicial harassment	UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Articles 9, 12
Prolonged pretrial detention	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 9(3)
Unfair trial	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 14

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HOW THE CASE UNFOLDED

12 November 2024

ARREST

Arrested by Tunisian Economic and Financial Investigation Unit

On 12 November 2024, Abdallah Saïd, activist and president of the Enfants de la Lune association in Médenine (which provides social and health services to refugee, migrant, and unaccompanied children), was taken into custody by the Tunisian Economic and Financial Investigation Unit. He was charged with money laundering and conspiracy against state security.

26 November 2024

CONTEXT

Counter-terrorism judges find no terrorism link

The counter-terrorism judicial pole found no suspicion of terrorism and sent the file back to the ordinary courts. He alone stayed in prison; the four people arrested with him, the association's secretary general and treasurer and two bank employees, were released.

3 February 2026

HEARING POSTPONED

Charges of money laundering and state security dismissed; hearing postponed

On 3 February 2026, the Primary Court of Medenine postponed the first hearing in the case until 21 April 2026 and rejected his request for release. The charges of "undermining external state security" and "money laundering" had been dropped at the end of the investigation phase; only a financial charge was sent to trial.

21 April 2026

CONVICTION

Convicted at first instance and sentenced to one year in prison

The Primary Court of Medenine convicted Abdallah Saïd at first instance and sentenced him to one year in prison. The prosecution appealed at once.

15 July 2026

HEARING

Appeal hearing postponed and release request rejected

The Médenine Court of Appeal postponed the appeal hearing and rejected a new request for his release.

28 September 2026

APPEAL: JUDGMENT UPHELD

Court of Appeal raises sentence to two years

On the prosecution's appeal, the Médenine Court of Appeal upheld the conviction and raised the sentence from one year to two years in prison. Reports expected his release within weeks because of the time already served.

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THE FULL STORY

Background and Work

Abdallah Saïd is a Tunisian physician with more than thirty years in public health. He is president of the Enfants de la Lune (Children of the Moon) association in Médenine, which gives medical, psychological, school and social help to migrant and refugee children and to vulnerable women, and he coordinates a collective of local associations.

The Arrest

He was arrested in Médenine on 12 November 2024, together with the association's secretary general, its treasurer and two bank employees, who were all later released. The case was first referred to the counter-terrorism judicial pole, which on 26 November 2024 found no suspicion of terrorism and sent the file back to the ordinary courts. An investigation was then opened into money laundering, embezzlement and harming the external security of the State, linked to the association's foreign funding and its aid to migrants. He alone was kept in prison.

The Charges

At the close of the investigation the charges of harming the external security of the State and money laundering were dropped, and only a financial charge was sent to trial. Rights groups describe the case as an attack on humanitarian work with migrants and refugees.

Trial and Appeal

On 3 February 2026 the Médenine first instance court postponed the case to 21 April 2026 and rejected his request for release. On 21 April 2026 it sentenced him to one year in prison, and the prosecution appealed at once. In July 2026 the appeal hearing was postponed and a new release request was rejected. On 28 September 2026 the Médenine Court of Appeal raised the sentence to two years in prison. Reports expected his release within weeks because of the time he had already served, but no report of his release had been found by early November 2026.

Context

Tunisia has seen a sharp deterioration in civic space and judicial independence since 2021. Dozens of journalists, lawyers, activists, and opposition figures have been arrested on charges related to national security, conspiracy, or financial crimes. Many of these prosecutions lack credible evidence and proceed in violation of international fair trial standards.

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SAMPLE LETTER

Copy it, adapt it and send it from your own address.

Your Excellency,

I am writing to demand the immediate release of Abdallah Saïd, physician and president of the Enfants de la Lune association in Médenine, which supports migrant and refugee children and vulnerable women, currently detained in Tunisia since 12 November 2024, and an end to all reprisals tied to this case.

In brief: Abdallah Saïd, a doctor and president of the Enfants de la Lune association in Médenine, which helps migrant and refugee children, was arrested on 12 November 2024. The state security and money laundering charges were dropped and he was tried on a financial charge. He was sentenced to one year in prison in April 2026, raised to two years on appeal in September 2026.

I respectfully urge your authorities to:
1. Release Abdallah Saïd immediately and unconditionally;
2. Drop all charges related to the peaceful exercise of fundamental rights;
3. Ensure unrestricted access to legal counsel, family, and adequate medical care while in detention.

I will continue to monitor this case until Abdallah Saïd is free.

Respectfully,

[Your name]
[Your city, country]
8 November 2026