

ADVOCACY DOSSIER

MERIEM BRIBRI

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At liberty **Tunisia**

Meriem Bribri was sentenced to four months in prison and fined for sharing a video of police violence on Facebook. A telecommunications law was used to prosecute her criticism of security forces.

HuMENA.

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

Case reference HM-TN-2026-009

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THE CASE AT A GLANCE

Meriem Bribri was sentenced to four months in prison and fined for sharing a video of police violence on Facebook. A telecommunications law was used to prosecute her criticism of security forces.

STATUS	**At liberty**
COUNTRY	**Tunisia**
SENTENCE	**Four months in prison and a fine of 500 Tunisian dinars.**
CHARGES	**Knowingly harming or disturbing others via public telecommunications networks under Article 86 of the Telecommunication Code of 2001**

WE CALL ON THE AUTHORITIES TO:

WHAT WE ASK

01 Drop all charges against Meriem Bribri related to the peaceful exercise of fundamental rights.

02 End the judicial harassment of Meriem Bribri and guarantee a fair process meanwhile.

03 Guarantee that Meriem Bribri faces no arrest, travel restriction or other reprisal for peaceful human rights work.

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

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DOCUMENTED VIOLATIONS

	INTERNATIONAL STANDARD
Judicial harassment	UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Articles 9, 12
Press freedom violation	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 19
Threats and intimidation	UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Article 12
Unfair trial	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 14

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HOW THE CASE UNFOLDED

October 2020

DEFENDER ACTIVITY

Facebook post shared

Bribri reposted a video on Facebook showing a security officer in Nabeul assaulting a civilian, adding commentary criticising police violence.

8 October 2020

CHARGE FILED

Questioned by Sfax police and charged

Sfax police questioned Bribri over the post, and a prosecutor charged her the same day under Article 86 of the Telecommunication Code. The case followed a complaint by the Tunisian Security Union.

21 December 2021

CONVICTION

Convicted by Sfax court

The Court of First Instance in Sfax convicted Bribri under Article 86 and sentenced her to four months in prison and a fine of 500 dinars.

23 December 2021

APPEAL LODGED

Appeal lodged

Bribri's lawyer appealed the conviction. The prosecutor also appealed.

28 September 2022

CONTEXT

Appeal heard; outcome not found

The Sfax Court of Appeal heard her appeal and that of the prosecutor, with judgment due on 12 October 2022. The outcome has not been found.

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THE FULL STORY

Background and Work

Meriem Bribri is a blogger and human rights monitor based in Sfax, in southeastern Tunisia. Her work centres on documenting violations of civil rights and abuses by state security forces. She has participated in youth-led protests challenging laws that restrict freedom of expression, and she uses social media to amplify evidence of police violence and to call for accountability.

In a country where the gap between constitutional guarantees and street-level enforcement has widened, Bribri represents a generation of digital defenders who use accessible technology to hold power to account. Her posts document incidents that official channels ignore or deny.

The Facebook Post and the Complaint

In October 2020, Bribri reposted a video on her Facebook page. The footage, filmed in Nabeul, a city on Tunisia's northeastern coast, showed a security officer physically assaulting a civilian. Bribri added commentary criticising the violence used by some members of the security forces in the course of their duties.

The Tunisian Security Union, which represents police officers, filed a complaint against her with the General Prosecutor in Sfax. On 8 October 2020 Sfax police questioned her, and a prosecutor charged her the same day. The union invoked Article 86 of the Telecommunication Code of 2001, a provision that criminalises the use of public telecommunications networks to "knowingly harm third parties or disrupt their peace." The statute carries a sentence of one to two years' imprisonment and a fine of 100 to 1,000 Tunisian dinars.

The Trial and Sentence

On 21 December 2021, the Court of First Instance in Sfax convicted Bribri under Article 86. The court sentenced her to four months in prison and a fine of 500 dinars. The prosecution was based solely on her having shared the video and criticised police conduct.

Bribri contested the validity of the proceedings. She was not provided with the case file detailing the evidence, notes, or formal charges against her. Fundamental judicial procedures were not respected. Her lawyer appealed on 23 December 2021, and the prosecutor also appealed.

Harassment and Threats

Following the conviction, Bribri faced harassment from security officers and members of the police union. Threats were made against her. The climate of intimidation intensified as her case moved through the appeals process.

The Sfax Court of Appeal heard the appeals of Bribri and the prosecutor on 28 September 2022, with judgment due on 12 October 2022. The outcome has not been found. She has remained free throughout.

Legal Context

Article 86 of Tunisia's Telecommunication Code has increasingly been used to prosecute human rights defenders who document and share evidence of abuses by security forces. The statute's vague language, "harming" or "disturbing" others via telecommunications networks, grants prosecutors and judges wide discretion to criminalise online speech, particularly criticism of state institutions.

Bribri's case is part of a broader pattern in which Tunisian authorities deploy telecommunications and cybercrime laws to silence those who expose police violence or challenge official narratives. The law functions as a tool of judicial harassment, punishing the messenger rather than addressing the abuse documented in the footage.

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SAMPLE LETTER

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

Your Excellency,

I am writing about the prosecution of Meriem Bribri, blogger and human rights monitor documenting police violence and civil rights violations in Tunisia, which targets peaceful human rights work.

In brief: Meriem Bribri was sentenced to four months in prison and fined for sharing a video of police violence on Facebook. A telecommunications law was used to prosecute her criticism of security forces.

I respectfully urge your authorities to:
1. Drop all charges against Meriem Bribri related to the peaceful exercise of fundamental rights;
2. End the judicial harassment of Meriem Bribri and guarantee a fair process meanwhile;
3. Guarantee that Meriem Bribri faces no arrest, travel restriction or other reprisal for peaceful human rights work.

I will continue to follow this case until the charges against Meriem Bribri are dropped.

Respectfully,

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