

Advocacy dossier

Nezha Majdi

نزهة مجدى

At liberty **Morocco**

Nezha Majdi is a contract teacher in Morocco and a member of the national coordination of contract teachers, who reported sexual assault and violent treatment by police during protests in Rabat in 2021. She was imprisoned in December 2025 to serve a three-month sentence imposed in 2022 and upheld on appeal in May 2023, and was released on 4 March 2026.

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The case at a glance

Nezha Majdi is a contract teacher in Morocco and a member of the national coordination of contract teachers, who reported sexual assault and violent treatment by police during protests in Rabat in 2021. She was imprisoned in December 2025 to serve a three-month sentence imposed in 2022 and upheld on appeal in May 2023, and was released on 4 March 2026.

Status **At liberty**	Arrested **18 Dec 2025**	Country **Morocco**
Sentence Three months of immediate imprisonment.		
Charges Outrage against a public official		

What we ask

We call on the authorities to:

01 Quash the conviction and drop any charges that remain on record against Nezha Majdi in connection with peaceful human rights work.

02 Confirm publicly that Nezha Majdi faces no residual travel, financial, or professional restriction arising from this case.

03 Guarantee that Nezha Majdi can resume that work without surveillance, summons, or further reprisal.

04 Provide effective remedy for the period of deprivation of liberty already served.

02

Documented violations

Each violation and the international standard it breaks.

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

Gender based violence Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, General Recommendation No. 35
Convention against Torture, Article 1

Judicial harassment UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Articles 9, 12

Physical assault International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Articles 7, 9

Unfair trial International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 14

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How the case unfolded

17 March 2021

Sexual violence

Sexual assault during Rabat protest

Majdi participated in a demonstration in Rabat. A police officer sexually assaulted her and threatened her with rape. She reported the assault publicly.

6 April 2021

Arrest

Arrested violently in Rabat

Five police officers seized Majdi violently during a contract teachers' protest in Rabat, grabbing her arms, legs, and head. She was detained alongside nineteen other teachers.

6 April 2021

Ill-treatment

Subjected to forced undressing and body searches

Held in custody for 48 hours. A female officer forced her to undress and subjected her to humiliating body searches.

8 April 2021

Interrogation

Interrogated and charged

Interrogated for five hours about her role in the protests and her public statement regarding sexual assault. Charged with outrage against a public official.

8 April 2021

Release

Released after 48 hours in custody

She was released after 48 hours in police custody and prosecuted while free.

10 March 2022

Conviction

Sentenced to three months in prison at first instance

A first-instance court sentenced her to three months of immediate imprisonment over her part in the contract teachers' protests.

22 May 2023

Appeal: judgment upheld

Three-month sentence upheld on appeal

The Court of Appeal upheld the three-month prison sentence; she was the only one of the twenty teachers in the case to receive a custodial term.

18 December 2025

Arrest

Arrested to serve the three-month sentence upheld on appeal

Arrested at a checkpoint at the entrance to Ouled Teima to serve the three-month sentence upheld on appeal in May 2023; her cassation appeal had been rejected.

4 March 2026

Release

Released from prison

Released after serving about two and a half months of the three-month sentence.

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The full story

Update, 12 November 2026: Nezha Majdi, a contract teacher, has been free since 4 March 2026, after serving about two and a half months of the three-month sentence imposed over the 2021 contract teachers' protests in Rabat. No new arrest or prosecution has been reported since her release.

Background and Work

Nezha Majdi is a contract teacher in Morocco and a political activist who has campaigned for labour rights in the education sector. Beginning in 2016, thousands of contract teachers across Morocco mobilised to demand conversion of their precarious contracts into permanent civil-service posts. The movement grew into one of the country's most sustained labour protests. Majdi joined the demonstrations and spoke publicly about the abuses teachers faced at the hands of security forces during the protests.

The April 2021 Protests and Police Abuse

On 17 March 2021, Majdi participated in a demonstration in Rabat. During the protest, a police officer sexually assaulted her and threatened her with rape. She reported the assault publicly, naming the perpetrator and calling for accountability.

On 6 April 2021, she took part in a contract teachers' protest in Rabat. Five police officers seized her violently amid the crowd, grabbing her arms, legs, and head. Photographs reviewed by Amnesty International show bruising on her arms consistent with the violent arrest. She was detained alongside nineteen other teachers and held in custody for 48 hours. Authorities transferred the arrested protesters to four separate police stations.

During her detention, a female officer forced her to undress on two occasions and subjected her to humiliating body searches lasting up to fifteen minutes. The officer repeatedly ordered her to sit and stand. Majdi was interrogated for five hours. Authorities questioned her about her role in the protests and pressed her on her prior public statement alleging that a police officer had sexually assaulted her and threatened her with rape on 17 March. At the conclusion of the interrogation, she was charged with "outrage against a public official."

Conviction, Imprisonment and Release

On 10 March 2022, a first-instance court sentenced Nezha Majdi to three months of immediate imprisonment over her part in the contract teachers' protests. In May 2023 the Court of Appeal upheld the sentence; she was the only one of the twenty teachers in the case to receive a custodial term. Her cassation appeal was later rejected.

On 18 December 2025, more than four years after the events in Rabat, she was arrested at a checkpoint at the entrance to Ouled Teima to serve the sentence. She was released on 4 March 2026. Her imprisonment was directly linked to her activism and her willingness to speak publicly about the sexual assault and physical violence she endured at the hands of police.

Legal and Human Rights Concerns

Nezha Majdi's arrest and conviction violate her right to freedom of expression under Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Morocco is a party. The charges against her criminalise peaceful protest and retaliate against

her for reporting abuses by security forces. The three-month sentence is disproportionate and serves to punish her for exercising her rights.

Her case also raises concerns about the treatment of detainees. The forced undressing, repeated body searches, and prolonged interrogation during her April 2021 detention constitute inhuman and degrading treatment. The failure to investigate her reports of sexual assault and the decision instead to prosecute her for speaking out undermine the right to redress and access to justice.

The prosecution of Nezha Majdi has a chilling effect on teachers' collective action and civil society activism in Morocco. Educators and activists who expose official misconduct or advocate for labour rights face the risk of criminal prosecution and imprisonment.

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