URGENT ACTION

BLOGGER RELEASED ON BAIL

Atheist blogger Selim Khan was released from prison on bail on 13 August 2024. He was arrested and detained on 4 November 2023 after expressing views critical of religion in a private Facebook group. Another member photographed his comment and shared it publicly, causing public agitation. A ruling party member then filed a case against him "for hurting religious values and sentiments" under the newly enacted Cyber Security Act and the Penal Code. After repeated bail refusals, he was granted bail on 13 March 2024 but remained in jail for several months due to procedural delays. He was finally released on 13 August 2024.

NO FURTHER ACTION IS REQUESTED. MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO SENT APPEALS.

Selim Khan, a 19-year-old atheist blogger who expressed views critical of Islam in a private Facebook group, was arrested and detained under the Cyber Security Act on 4 November 2023. Despite finally being granted bail on 13 March 2024 after several refusals, he was not released until 13 August 2024.

Selim Khan's case was ongoing at the end of 2024. Amnesty International is unable to verify whether the case is currently ongoing.

Selim Khan should not have been charged for expressing his views in the first place. The prosecution of Selim Khan under the Cyber Security Act and the Penal Code, and the violations of due process, were a direct violation of the rights to freedom of expression and freedom of religion and belief, and also violated the prohibition of arbitrary detention.

NAME AND PREFFERED PRONOUN: Selim Khan (he/him)

THIS IS THE SECOND AND FINAL OUTPUT FOR UA 54/24

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/ASA13/8137/2024/en/