

RELEASE IN FULL

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**From:** Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 30, 2011 2:27 PM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Fw: Saudi activist: Woman driver freed from detention (AP)

Yay!

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**From:** OpsNewsTicker  
**Sent:** Monday, May 30, 2011 01:15 PM  
**To:** NEWS-Mahogany; NEWS-NEA  
**Cc:** SES-O\_Shift-II; SES-O\_OS; SES-O\_CMS; SES-O\_SWO  
**Subject:** Saudi activist: Woman driver freed from detention (AP)

DUBAI (AP) - A rights activist in Saudi Arabia says authorities have released a woman detained for defying the ultraconservative kingdom's ban on female drivers.

Waleed Aboul Khair says the 32-year-old woman, Manal al-Sherif, was freed May 30 on an order from Saudi officials. Al-Sherif had been detained since May 21 after posting an Internet video of her driving as part of a campaign for a mass protest next month against the restriction.

Al-Sherif had been ordered to remain in custody until at least early June.

The reason for the early release was not announced by authorities, but it followed growing pressure from rights groups and others in Saudi Arabia and the West.

*NewsTickers alert senior Department officials to breaking news. This item appears as it did in its original publication and does not contain analysis or commentary by Department sources.*