

Mother of Arab Spring Martyr Detained
By Zied Mhirs
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Manoubia Bouazizi was arrested today in Sidi Bouzid, Tunisia after an exchange of insults with a judge in the courthouse corridors.

Manoubia Bouazizi is the mother of Mohamed Bouazizi, the street vendor whose self-immolation triggered the protests that led to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's ouster in 2011.

According to her daughter Leila Bouazizi, "Manoubia was at the courthouse to accomplish the necessary administrative procedures in order to receive a 20,000 Tunisian Dinar government compensation awarded to martyrs of the revolution."

Judge Chokri Trifi declared on Shems FM radio that the altercation took place at 11:30 am when Bouazizi insulted him and other judges. He also reported that the chief judge has filed a complaint against Bouazizi who may be charged with Contempt to Court and assault on morality.

Manoubia Bouazizi's son, Salem Bouazizi, insisted that his mother is a victim and that she was humiliated in the court by clerks and judges who intentionally turned what should have been a fast procedure into a three-day bureaucratic nightmare.

Lawyer Abdessatar Zaafrani said that she might be sentenced up to one month of jail and might be fined.

Leila Bouazizi said that she does not know about her mother's current location and that her older brother Salem is currently looking for her. Manoubia left her home in the Tunisian suburbs, three days ago. Her three daughters and two younger children have been left on their own and are waiting for their mother to come home.

However, according to Salem Bouazizi, his mother is currently detained in Gafsa, in Southwest Tunisia.