

Former Indian actress wins bail

by UPI

HYDERABAD, India -- A special Indian court has freed on bail Monica Bedi, a former movie star and a companion of Abu Salem who is a prime suspect in the 1993 bombings in Mumbai. Bedi, 32, who along with Salem was extradited from Portugal in 2005, was released Wednesday from a prison in the southern city of Hyderabad, where she had been held since November 2005 on a fake passport charge, various media reports said. The serial Mumbai bombings killed 257 people. Bedi, accompanied by her father and uncle, told waiting reporters her immediate plans are to spend time with her family in her village in the northern state of Punjab. She reportedly also has received several movie offers. The prosecution says Bedi and Salem, an Indian Muslim regarded as an underworld don with much influence in the Mumbai movie industry, secured passports with false information. Bedi's attorneys deny she is Salem's girlfriend and claim she had been held hostage. Salem, now in custody, faces numerous other charges.

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