

# Former Porn Star Mia Khalifa Loses Job Over Pro-Palestine Advocacy

Former adult film actress Mia Khalifa has been terminated from her job following her vocal support for Palestine on social media platforms.

Khalifa, known for her brief but high-profile career in the adult entertainment industry, has recently shifted her focus towards advocacy and activism. Her passionate stance in favor of Palestine garnered significant attention, especially on platforms like Twitter, where she has a substantial following.

This sudden termination underscores the challenges individuals may face when using their public platform to express political opinions, especially on sensitive subjects like the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Khalifa, who has been a prominent figure on social media, didn't shy away from using her influence to raise awareness about the plight of Palestinians. Her posts resonated with a wide audience, sparking debates and discussions on the issue.

While this move has undoubtedly had a professional impact on Khalifa, it has also ignited a broader conversation about the intersection of personal beliefs, freedom of expression, and professional repercussions.

The incident highlights the complexities surrounding public figures who engage in advocacy work, particularly when it involves politically charged subjects. It brings to light the scrutiny and potential consequences they may face when taking a firm stance on controversial issues.

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# Explore the World of Mia Malkova

Mia Malkova, a name that resonates throughout the adult entertainment industry. Since her debut in 2012, Malkova has captured the hearts and fantasies of viewers worldwide. Let's delve into the remarkable journey of this iconic figure, from her early beginnings to her groundbreaking collaborations.

In 2013, Mia Malkova was crowned the prestigious "Twistys Treat of the Year," a testament to her magnetic presence on screen. What's even more astonishing is that she achieved this feat within a year of entering the industry. This meteoric rise speaks volumes about her undeniable talent and appeal.

Mia's journey into the world of adult entertainment has a unique origin story. Her introduction to the trade came through her longtime friend, Natasha Malkova. Their friendship, which dates back to second grade in elementary school, took an unexpected turn, leading Mia to embrace her destiny in the industry.

Mia Malkova's career is marked by bold and boundary-pushing choices. One such milestone was her collaboration with the maverick director, Ram Gopal Varma, for the provocative video titled 'God, Sex and Truth.' This daring project not only showcased Mia's fearlessness as an artist but also challenged societal norms surrounding sexuality.

Mia Malkova's journey from a newcomer to an industry icon is nothing short of extraordinary. Her accolades, coupled with her daring collaborations, have solidified her status as a trailblazer in adult entertainment. As Mia continues to push boundaries and redefine norms, there's no doubt that her

legacy will continue to captivate audiences for years to come.

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# **Disease X: Potential Next Pandemic Could Be 20 Times Deadlier than Covid-19, Warns Expert**

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has raised alarm bells over the anticipated next pandemic, ominously named 'Disease X', and suggests it may already be in motion. With over three years of battling coronavirus, which has now become a familiar health concern, healthcare professionals in the United Kingdom are now preparing for the potential onslaught of Disease X. Experts warn that this new virus could surpass Covid-19 in lethality, potentially causing an impact akin to the devastating Spanish Flu.

**What is Disease X and What Do We Know So Far?:** Disease X, as termed by the WHO, is a potential next pandemic that experts believe might already be en route.

**Expert's Warning: Disease X's Lethality:** Health expert Dame Kate Bingham, who chaired the UK's vaccine taskforce in 2020, cautions that Disease X could lead to a staggering 20 times more fatalities than Covid-19, estimated at around 50 million deaths. In an interview with the Daily Mail, Bingham emphasized the urgency of mass vaccination drives, stating, "The world will have to prepare for mass vaccination drives and deliver the doses in record time...Imagine Disease X is as infectious as measles with the fatality rate of Ebola (67 per cent). Somewhere in the world, it's replicating, and sooner or

later, somebody will start feeling sick.”

**Race for a Vaccine:** At present, there is no approved vaccine available for Disease X. Bingham stresses the critical need for scientists to develop a range of prototype vaccines targeting various threatening virus families. Getting a head start on vaccines for this potentially deadly virus may be crucial in honing in on its specific characteristics.

**Vast Viral Diversity:** Bingham points out that while scientists have identified 25 virus families comprising thousands of individual viruses, there remain millions of undiscovered viruses, as reported by the Daily Mail.

**Financial Preparedness is Key:** One of the initial steps required is the allocation of necessary financial resources. Bingham highlights the substantial cost of inaction, stating, “The monetary cost of inaction is seismic. After all, even Covid-19 – a milder virus than Disease X – managed to leave us holding a bill for \$16 trillion in both lost output and public health expenditure.”

As the world grapples with the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the specter of Disease X looms large. Experts warn that this potential next pandemic could be far deadlier, emphasizing the critical need for swift action in terms of vaccine development and financial preparedness. The global community must remain vigilant in the face of this ominous threat.

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# Rising Rice Prices and El

# **Nino Threaten Global Supply**

Rice prices are soaring to an 11-year high, creating concerns over potential shortages in Asia and Africa. The situation is further compounded by the impact of the El Nino weather pattern, which has led to erratic rainfall. With India accounting for a significant portion of global rice exports, any reduction in shipments from the country could further drive up prices. The recent increase in India's minimum support price (MSP) for rice has already caused a surge in export prices, prompting other suppliers like Thailand and Vietnam to follow suit. This article delves into the implications of these developments and highlights the challenges of building up stockpiles in the face of rising prices.

## **India's MSP Hike and its Effects:**

India, responsible for over 40% of the world's rice exports, recently raised its minimum support price for rice, causing prices to spike further. BV Krishna Rao, president of the Rice Exporters Association (REA), acknowledged that India had been the cheapest supplier of rice, but with the MSP hike, other suppliers also started raising their prices. Consequently, Indian rice export prices reached a five-year high, rising by 9% after the 7% MSP increase. Thailand and Vietnam also experienced export price increases to more than two-year highs in response to India's actions. The price surge in the market has led to concerns about the tight supply situation and the potential for global price surges if Indian rice exports decrease.

## **Impact of El Nino:**

The El Nino weather pattern, known for causing reduced rainfall in Asia, poses an additional threat to rice

production. The global rice price index remains above an 11-year high even before potential disruptions caused by El Nino. If yields drop significantly due to the weather phenomenon, rice prices could rise by a fifth or more. Thailand, the second-largest rice exporter, has already urged farmers to plant only one rice crop due to below-normal rainfall. India has also experienced a slow start to planting due to reduced rain, which is of concern for the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as elections approach next year. The looming impact of El Nino has shifted the rice market from a buyers' market to a potential sellers' market, according to a Singapore-based dealer quoted in the Reuters report.

## **Asian and African Buyers:**

While demand from price-sensitive African countries has slowed, some Asian buyers, such as Indonesia and the Philippines, have been increasing their rice purchases from traditional suppliers like Vietnam. In preparation for potential disruptions in domestic supply caused by El Nino, Indonesia has even signed an agreement with India to import 1 million tons of rice. These shifting buying patterns have implications for global rice trade and may further strain supplies.

The global rice industry faces significant challenges as prices surge and the El Nino weather pattern threatens to disrupt production. The recent increase in India's minimum support price for rice has triggered price hikes among other suppliers, exacerbating the situation. With the potential for reduced yields due to El Nino, the rice market could transition into a sellers' market, further driving up prices. The attention remains on India's agricultural policies, weather patterns, and their impact on prices and supplies worldwide. As the situation unfolds, stakeholders in the rice industry will need to navigate these dynamics carefully to ensure an adequate and stable supply of this crucial staple

food.

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# **Pakistan Turns to Asset Sales Amid Forex Crisis to Stabilize Economy**

Pakistan is facing a severe foreign exchange (forex) crisis, prompting the government to take drastic measures to overcome its financial struggles. As part of its efforts, Islamabad has resorted to selling its public assets to secure much-needed forex. This move comes as friendly countries that previously provided aid have reduced their support, and foreign investors are withdrawing from the country. In this article, we will explore the challenges Pakistan is facing, the measures it is taking to address the crisis, and the impact on its economy.

## **Forex Shortage and Asset Sales:**

Unable to meet its forex requirements, Pakistan has turned to selling its public assets as a means of generating immediate funds. One notable example is the recent leasing of berths 6-9 at Karachi Port's East Wharf to a UAE-based company for USD 220 million. This inter-governmental transaction under a new law allows the country to raise emergency funds by leasing assets to foreign entities. The 50-year concession agreement grants the newly established Karachi Gateway Terminal Ltd. (KGTL) the responsibility of managing, operating, and developing the port terminals to increase capacity.

## **Benefits of Asset Sales:**

The decision to lease out public assets not only provides the urgently needed forex but also reduces the burden of funding critical imports necessary for port development. While Islamabad had been offering its assets for sale since last year without much interest, the UAE's agreement to purchase an interest in Karachi port has provided a much-needed lifeline to Pakistan during this unprecedented forex crisis. The move signifies the support of a friendly country in helping Pakistan overcome its financial difficulties.

## **Challenges Faced and Economic Impact:**

The ongoing political and economic uncertainties in Pakistan have deterred foreign investors from entering the country, exacerbating the forex crisis. Additionally, Saudi Arabia, a reliable development partner, has shifted its aid strategy to focus on economic accountability, ending the practice of providing unrestricted financial assistance. This change has left Pakistan without the same level of support it previously received.

To address the situation, Pakistan is under pressure from friendly countries to implement economic reforms and seek assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Delayed IMF assistance has affected the country's credibility and its ability to secure much-needed bailout funds. Consequently, the government has made significant changes to the Finance Bill for the upcoming fiscal year, including additional tax measures and spending cuts, to comply with IMF conditions and regain the confidence of international lenders.



# Foreign Investors' Withdrawal:

Foreign investors are increasingly withdrawing from Pakistan, further exacerbating the economic challenges. Several international companies have sold their stakes in Pakistani businesses, citing various reasons such as financial losses, unfavorable market conditions, and concerns about the business environment. The exit of companies like Bayer, Eli Lilly, and Shell Pakistan, among others, raises concerns about Pakistan's attractiveness to foreign investors and its ability to sustain foreign direct investment.

The forex crisis in Pakistan has prompted the government to resort to selling public assets as a last resort to alleviate financial struggles. With friendly countries reducing their aid and foreign investors withdrawing, Pakistan faces significant economic challenges. However, by leasing public assets and implementing necessary economic reforms, the country aims to stabilize its economy and regain the confidence of international lenders and investors. The success of these measures will be crucial for Pakistan's path towards sustainable economic growth and financial stability.