



# NATIONAL COALITION TO PROTECT CIVIL FREEDOMS

*Established October 2010*

National Coalition to Protect Civil Freedoms  
P.O. Box 66301  
Washington, DC 20035

February 4, 2015

Re: Rasmea Odeh

Dear Honorable Judge Gershwin Drain,

As an organization that protects and promotes the civil liberties on which our country was built, the National Coalition to Protect Civil Freedoms is writing to request leniency from you in the March 12 sentencing of Rasmea Odeh. Our coalition is composed of 18 organizations with a wide variety of members including those who have known and worked with Rasmea and who support her and her work as a pillar of the community.

Those who had the privilege of working with Rasmea, were touched by her commitment to improving lives for immigrants and refugees and helping them adjust to life in the United States. Rasmea was a foundational member in her community and built bridges between various groups and populations in Chicago. Rasmea's desire to help others and to work for justice for all members of her community has inspired members of our coalition to improve our work, and dedication. Rasmea's positive spirit is contagious. She approaches life with passion and zeal to lift up the community in which she works. .

We are aware that if Rasmea's conviction is not reversed on appeal, she faces possible deportation that would sever the strong ties that she has built with individuals and communities during her time in the United States. However, we hope that Rasmea will be able to continue pursuing her award winning work in support of the Chicago communities Arab and Muslim community. We are asking for leniency in her case so that Rasmea does not have to spend another day in prison.

Thank you for considering our request for leniency in Rasmea's case.

Respectfully,

Stephen F. Downs

Executive Director of The National Coalition to Protect Civil Freedoms, and Former  
Chief Counsel to the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct

