

January 21, 2015

The Honorable Judge Gershwin Drain  
Theodore Levin U.S. Courthouse  
21 W. Lafayette Blvd., Room 123  
Detroit, MI 48226

RE: U.S. v. Rasmea Odeh

Dear Judge Drain,

My name is Khalil Meek, the current Executive Director and one of the co-founders of the Muslim Legal Fund of America since 2001. Today, I am writing to request leniency from you in the March 12 sentencing of Rasmea Odeh, who I know as community leader.

I know Rasmea is an award-winning leader of Chicago's immigrant community who has dedicated 50 years of her life to serving refugees wherever she has lived. In Chicago, she built the Arab Women's Committee, with some 600 members. Because of Rasmea's work, immigrant and refugee women who came to the US from countries facing war and political crises – like Iraq, Palestine, Yemen, Syria, and beyond – now have a place to seek support, gain empowerment and community, and call their home.

I strongly support her mission to put a human face on Palestinians so the public will come to know them as people with the same aspirations, hopes and dreams for freedom and justice that we as Americans hold dear.

To me she has been a role model who has a passion for helping others. She genuinely cares for people. She would never hesitate to do something good for others. Ms. Odeh is always talking about hope, peace and good will towards others. She lives by example. Rasmea is a warm, loving, thoughtful person who has never hurt or harmed anyone. She is a good hearted, God conscious humanitarian.

I pray for your Honor to be compassionate, merciful and lenient in your sentencing of Rasmea.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,

*Khalil Meek*

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