



Southside Together Organizing for Power

602 E. 61st st - Chicago, IL 60637 - www.stopchicago.org

(773) 217-9598 southsidestop@gmail.com

February 7, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Southside Together Organizing for Power (STOP) in support of leniency in the sentencing of Rasmea Odeh. Our organization has had the pleasure of working with Rasmea and the organization that she co-directs, the Arab American Action Network, for many years now. Rasmea is a respected community leader who has selflessly given her time and energy for decades to help ensure the wellbeing of people in her community and other marginalized communities in and around Chicago and beyond. It is hard for us to understand how a woman who is a model for service, for giving, for responsibility, for integrity, for concern for those with the least and consistent and selfless pursuit of the common good could possibly be facing anything other than congratulations and awards for all she has done, much less be facing potential consequences from the justice system.

Looking at the details of Rasmea's case, it is hard to understand the original decision in the first place. She has faced unjust detention and torture, survived tremendous psychological damage, someone despite that found a way to re-establish herself in the United States and build up an organization in Chicago that now has a track record of decades of service. If there is no possibility of overturning the original unjust conviction, the very least this court can do is grant leniency to ensure this upstanding and valued community member be able to continue her essential service work.

Sincerely,

Matt Ginsberg-Jaeckle,
Co-founder, Southside Together Organizing for Power (STOP)

