



**Chicago Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression**  
1325 S. Wabash Ave. Suite 105, Chicago, Illinois 60605 (312) 939-2750  
www.naarpr.org

February 9, 2015

◆ **Executive Committee**

Clarice Durham  
Ted Pearson  
Josephine Wyatt  
Co-Chairs  
Willie Williamson  
Treasurer  
Kevin Lindemann  
Rec'g Sec'y  
Mike Siviwe Elliott  
Labor Committee  
Chair  
Frank Chapman  
Field Secretary,  
Education Director

◆ **Steering Committee\***

Jeff Baker  
Committee for a Better  
Chicago

Alejandro Barba  
Gloria J. Johnson-Ester  
Joe Iosbaker  
Committee Against FBI  
Repression  
Rasmea Odeh Defense  
Committee

Gregory Malandrucchio  
Victim of arbitrary brutal  
beating by Chicago police  
Crista Noël  
Larry Redmond

Attorney at Law,  
General Counsel

Billie Rosman  
Judith Stuart  
Prison Medical  
Project Coordinator  
Cherese Williams

Para-Legal  
Cabrini-Green Legal Aid  
Patricia J. Welch  
Sarah Wild  
Mildred Williamson

◆ **Organizing Committee to  
Stop Police Crimes\*  
(Includes Steering  
Committee)**

Khalid Abdullah  
National Jericho Movement  
Bertha Escamilla  
Mother of Nick Escamilla,  
police torture victim  
Kamrin Howard  
N'COBRA

Emmett Farmer  
Father of Flint Farmer,  
murdered by Police

Lewis Myers  
Attorney at Law  
Jordan Rome

\*Organization affiliations listed for  
identification only

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

Dear Judge Drain,

I am writing on behalf of our organization to request leniency in the March 12 sentencing of Rasmea Odeh, who we know as a friend, community leader, and staunch defender of the civil rights and civil liberties of her own people, and all people.

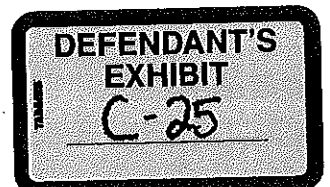
We first really got to know Ms. Odeh after she was arrested on what we believe to be false charges. After knowing her and witnessing her selfless dedication to human rights we became convinced that she was being singled out for persecution for political reasons. We have witnessed how she carries herself, and the love and respect she commands from thousands of Palestinian immigrants and their families, and thousands of other Americans. She is a woman we can all stand proudly for knowing. She is a true patriot, and she is a woman that the people can count on to do what is right in the defense of our basic human rights.

- In November 2014, Ms. Odeh was convicted of unlawful procurement of naturalization. She was detained for a month immediately following the verdict, including almost 3 weeks in solitary confinement, which was extremely difficult for her. Simple human compassion alone in her sentencing will help serve justice and demonstrate that the State is not persecuting her for standing tall in this case.

- We are confident that her conviction will be overturned on appeal. Keeping her out of prison would allow her to continue as a contributing and productive person, doing the work that is so critical to hundreds of immigrant and refugee women in Chicago's Arab and Muslim community.

- As a survivor of torture, her engagement for the betterment of her community in Chicago is critical to her physical and emotional health. The isolation she endured while incarcerated was may have retriggered her Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

UNITY + STRUGGLE + ORGANIZATION = VICTORIES!



- As a 67-year old woman, her health suffered under the cold, damp, and uncomfortable conditions in the St. Clair County Jail, as they surely would in any facility lacking medical services and accommodations to provide for senior citizens.
- If Rasmea loses her appeal, she will likely lose her citizenship and face deportation. This will end life as she knows it, cutting all her ties with family and community in Chicago. This punishment alone is so devastating, it should not be compounded by adding a prison term.
- 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.

Again, on behalf of our organization, we urge you to exercise your humanity and lenience in sentencing Rasme Odeh on March 12, 2015.

Sincerely and respectfully yours,

  
Clarice Durham

  
Ted Pearson

  
Frank Chapman

