

Peter H. S. Sporn, M.D.  
719 South Ridgeland Avenue  
Oak Park, Illinois 60304-1432

February 8, 2015

Judge Gershwin Drain  
United States District Court, Eastern District of Michigan  
Theodore Levin U.S. Courthouse  
231 W. Lafayette Blvd., Room 123  
Detroit, MI 48226

**Re: Rasmea Odeh**

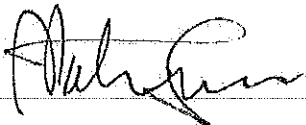
Honorable Judge Drain:

As a physician who has spent time doing medical and human rights work in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and in Israel, I am very familiar with the situation that Ms. Rasmea Odeh fled when she came to the United States many years ago. My experiences in the Middle East have sensitized me to the circumstances of Ms. Odeh's case and to her current plight.

More directly, in recent years I have become acquainted with Ms. Odeh and her work through mutual colleagues in the Arab-American community. I am a member and supporter of a civic organization, the Arab-Jewish Partnership for Peace and Justice in the Middle East. Through my involvement in this organization, I have worked with Ms. Odeh in supporting efforts to achieve a just and peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Because of this shared commitment, I am also aware of the legal case brought against Ms. Odeh, and of her recent conviction.

I write to tell of my first-hand knowledge that Ms. Odeh is an extraordinary woman. She has endured much suffering in her life, but rather than harden her, it has made her more sensitive and compassionate toward those in need. She has selflessly and dutifully contributed her skills and energies to helping Arab American and other women and families in the Chicago region for many years. She has been recognized by the Mayor of Chicago with a community service award for her work. Rasmea Odeh is a gentle soul who poses no threat to anyone, and she does not deserve a prison sentence. Thus, I urge you to exercise compassion and leniency in considering the sentence you will impose. Justice would not be served by imprisoning Ms. Odeh. As much as anyone, you are without doubt keenly aware that that our prisons are overflowing with individuals convicted of non-violent offences. Please do not add to this problem by sentencing Ms. Odeh to prison, when to do so would achieve no purpose and benefit no one.

Sincerely yours,



Peter H. S. Sporn, M.D.  
Professor of Medicine  
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

