



SASHA CENTER

SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES FOR
HOLISTIC HEALING AND AWARENESS

Saturday, February 14, 2015

Honorable Judge Gershwin Drain,

I am writing to request leniency from you in the March 12 sentencing of Rasmea Odeh, who I know as an outstanding community leader. MY name is Kalimah Johnson and I am the founder of the SASHA Center in Detroit, Michigan. SASHA CENTER is a sexual assault service, prevention and educational agency which is designed to provide educational/support groups to survivors of sexual assault.

I am writing this letter as a survivor of assault and an advocate of change. Rasmea Odeh has constantly strived to better her community and has a 50 year history of supporting survival in urban settings. Our great country was built of the supporting and assistance of refugees. I couldn't image anything more un-American than Rasmea losing her appeal and possibly facing the loss of her citizenship and deportation. Her influence and impact has had a profound effect on those around her as well as those who know her story. I am asking for compassion in this appeal. As a survivor advocate, I have seen the negative and deteriorating effects of forced solitude and isolation away from familial and community ties. To take Rasmea out of her community would be like leaving a gaping wound unattended. As an award winning community leader, she has created institutions that have become a safe haven to those coming into this country who lack empowerment, confidence and security. IT is my hope that as my work continues I may have at least half the impact that her presence has had.

Thank you for your careful and compassionate consideration of leniency for Rasmea Odeh. Her community needs her and our world needs more women like her.

Healing is Possible!
Kalimah Johnson, LMSW, ACSW, LCSW
Executive Director/Founder

SASHA Center, INC.

www.sashacenter.org

313-214-2083

888-865-7055

