

Honorable Judge Gershwin Drain,

I am writing to request leniency from you in the March 12 sentencing of Rasmea Odeh. I do not know Ms. Odeh personally but ask for leniency for her both from my perspective as a Chicagoan deeply connected to community movements in the city and as a Jewish woman who, concerned with Israel, Palestine, the Middle East and the impact of the conflict on the United States.

From friends in the Palestinian community in Chicago I know of Ms. Odeh's consistent and thoughtful leadership in the community – her dedication to bettering lives and of the leadership that has earned her great respect. From my numerous visits to and investigations in Israel and the West Bank I am only too fully aware of a court system that in the most Kafkaesque ways turns innocent people into criminals through the use of intimidation and torture.

Ms. Odeh has suffered greatly from her ordeals in Israel and in the U.S.. No good purpose would be served ; rather greater harm would be done should she be confined to prison while the determination of her appeal is pending. Knowing that she is an asset, not a danger, to the community, I respectfully request that she be allowed to resume her life with the family and friends she needs to support her.

Thank you for your consideration

Marilyn Katz

Chicago

Marilyn Katz
President
MK Communications
350 West Hubbard Street
Chicago, IL 60654
312-822-0505 (o)
312-953-1225 (c)

