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HUGHES + SOCOL + PIERS + RESNICK + DYM, LTD.

February 4, 2015

Hon. Judge Gershwin Drain  
U.S. District Court  
Theodore Levin U.S. Courthouse  
231 W. Lafayette Blvd.  
Detroit, MI 48226

**Re: Request for Leniency for Rasmea Odeh**

Dear Hon. Judge Drain,

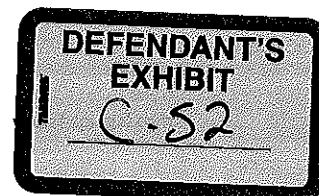
**Introduction**

I am writing this letter to request leniency in your sentencing of Rasmea Odeh. This letter will explain my professional and religious background, how I came to know Rasmea, and why I believe that Rasmea deserves leniency.

**My Background**

I am a 1973 graduate of the University of Michigan Law School. Following graduation, I received a Reginald Heber Smith Fellowship to work at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago. While employed at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago, I founded the Legal Services Center for Immigrants and served as its first director. The Center, which continues to operate as part of the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago today, is dedicated to defending the legal rights of low income immigrants in the Chicago metropolitan area. Since 1980, I have been engaged in the private practice of law, concentrating in the areas of immigration, labor, employment, and civil rights law. I am a shareholder with the law firm of Hughes Socol Piers Resnick & Dym, Ltd., where I have directed the Firm's immigration and nationality practice since 1990.

Since 1956, I have been a member of Beth Emet Synagogue in Evanston, Illinois. I have served on the Beth Emet Board of Trustees. I have also been a member of the Board of Directors and Vice President of the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs, a Chicago-based non-profit dedicated to the involvement of Chicago's Jewish community in social justice advocacy. In addition, I have served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights and the Spanish Coalition for Jobs (since renamed the National Latino Education Institute). In 2012, the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs awarded me the Rabbi Robert J. Marx Social Justice Award for my advocacy of justice for immigrants. I am also a member of the Arab Jewish Partnership for Peace and Justice in the Middle East, a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing



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together Jewish and Arab Americans seeking a peaceful and just solution to the conflict between Israel and Palestine through education and advocacy.

How I Met Rasmea

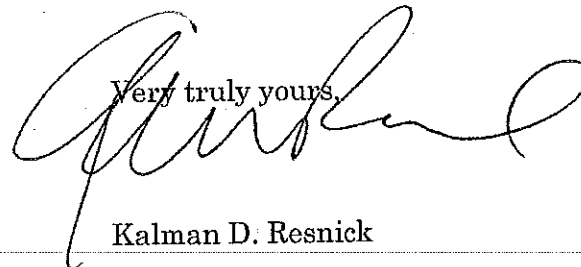
I first met Rasmea through my advocacy of immigrant rights and my involvement with Arab Jewish Partnership for Peace and Justice in the Middle East. In her positions as Associate Director of Arab American Action Network and as founder of Arab Women's Committee, Rasmea has advocated for immigrant and refugee rights and the rights of Arab American women. I have also appeared with Rasmea at a number of meetings between Jewish and Palestinian Americans advocating for a non-violent and just resolution of the Israeli Palestinian conflict.

Why Rasmea Merits Leniency

I strongly urge you not to sentence Rasmea to prison. First, Rasmea's imprisonment will prevent her from continuing her advocacy for the rights of immigrants, refugees, and women and will harm the communities served by the Arab American Action Network and the Arab Women's Committee, organizations on whose leadership team she serves. Second, Rasmea's imprisonment will prevent her from continuing her work with Arab and Jewish Americans seeking to achieve through nonviolence a peaceful and just solution to the Israeli Palestinian conflict. Third, Rasmea's imprisonment will adversely impact her emotional and physical health. Rasmea, who is 67 years old, is just a year older than me. As a 66 year old, I am in a particularly good position to understand how harmful imprisonment would be for Rasmea's emotional and physical well-being. I am particularly concerned over the impact of imprisonment on Rasmea's health because she was a victim of torture while imprisoned in Israel and as a result, suffers from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. As a lawyer who frequently represents victims of torture seeking asylum in the United States, I am well aware of the impact on victims of torture of incarceration and other hardships.

For all the reasons set forth above, I strongly urge you to show leniency to Rasmea in your sentencing of her and to avoid any sentence which would require her to be incarcerated.

Very truly yours,



Kalman D. Resnick

