



DETROIT AND MICHIGAN CHAPTER
NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD
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February 25, 2015

Honorable Gershwin Drain
United States District Court
for the Eastern District of Michigan
Theodore Levin U.S. Courthouse
231 W. Lafayette Blvd., Room 673
Detroit, MI 48226

RE: United States vs. Rasmia Odeh
Case No. 13-20772

Your Honor:

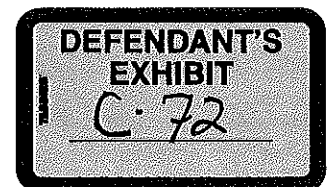
I write in my capacity as the President of the Detroit/Michigan Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild (NLG). This letter has been approved by a majority of the Board of Directors of our Chapter, and I believe it to be supported by a majority of our membership.

The NLG is an organization that has been dedicated to the principles and values of human rights and social justice for over 75 years. Based upon our history, we wish to bring to your attention several factors with regard to Ms. Odeh's sentencing which we believe are significant.

Of course her conviction presupposes her guilt. However, the Court can and should take into account several critical equitable factors when it imposes its sentence:

First and foremost is her history of oppression and indignity. Driven from her birthplace as a very young child, she struggled to overcome that legacy through education and devotion to family. Then, in 1969, she was arrested and tortured by Israeli military forces. As this Court acknowledged, "(t)he Court of course agrees that the use of torture and rape are antithetical to the concepts of fairness, due process and basic human rights. Moreover, the Court accepts as credible Defendant's claims of torture and is not unaffected by the inhumane circumstances of her detention in the West Bank." (Doc #117 at 7);

Second, since she has lived in the United States, Ms. Odeh has served as an inspiration to countless women, particularly Arab women who have been the victims of domestic violence. She has also been both a role model and guide for countless other Arab women immigrants to the United States who have struggled with a new and strange society; and

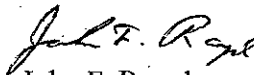


Finally, she is 67 years old and in frail health. She is without family nearby, other than her two nephews, and if sent to prison, she will suffer from an unusual and acute form of solitude.

Consequently, we ask that this Court exercise the leniency that is within its authority. Ms. Odeh neither needs nor should be asked to serve any additional time behind bars. Her sentence can be effectively and productively served under Government supervision, as she continues to serve the community she has served so effectively for so many years.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

Respectfully,



John F. Royal

President

Detroit/Michigan Chapter, National Lawyers Guild

