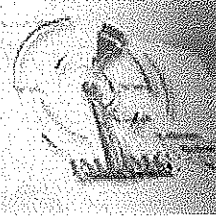




**International Middle East
Media Center**

مركز الشرق الأوسط الدولي للإعلام



Tuesday, January 20, 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 a respected organizer for Palestinian human rights.. In my capacity as North American Spokesperson and Media Liaison for the International Middle East Media Center, I understand deeply the cruelty which Mrs. Odeh has tirelessly addressed through her activism.

I greatly respect Mrs. Rasmea Odeh for her commitment to championing for Palestinians who have lived under a brutal occupation for over fifty years. Mrs. Odeh has been a voice for the voiceless and her courage inspires me. Aside from her community organization, Mrs. Odeh is an icon for Arab American communities in the United States at a time when many feel marginalized and discriminated against.

By further punishing Mrs. Odeh you will be sending a loud and clear message to the Arab American community that the United States is not their home.

Mrs. Odeh is a survivor of torture endured during her administrative detention in Israeli prisons. Much of her time in the Israeli prison system was spent in solitary confinement. Now, at the age of 67, Radmea Odeh once again faces prison in the country she immigrated to for asylum.

I appeal to you on behalf of Rasmea Odeh, and my employer, the International Middle East Media Center, to show mercy and leniency to this cherished member of our community.

Respectfully yours,

Alexandra Halaby

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