



DRUM

DESIS RISING UP & MOVING

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Honorable Judge Gershwin Drain,

I am writing to request leniency from you in the March 12 sentencing of Rasmea Odeh, who we know as deeply respected community leader by immigrant communities in Chicago and across the country. As an organization of over 2,500 South Asian immigrants, workers, and youth in NYC, we look to the legacy and impact of Rasmea's work in her communities as the model for emulation in our own work.

We have had the privilege of working with Rasmea directly, as well as with the people who have been touched by her work, and without a doubt, a consistent theme in all encounters has been Rasmea's desire to help others and to work for justice for all communities. Rasmea's spirit and work is contagious. Every minute of Rasmea's separation from her communities is a loss to countless families, community institutions, and the city of Chicago as a whole.

For Rasmea herself, as a survivor of torture, engagement for the betterment of her community in Chicago is critical to her emotional health; the isolation she endured while incarcerated was a great hardship and may have retriggered her Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). With firm expectation of her conviction being overturned on appeal, we believe that keeping her out of prison would allow her to continue as a contributing and productive person, doing the work that is so critical to hundreds of immigrant and refugee women in Chicago's Arab and Muslim communities. We are asking for leniency in her case so that Rasmea does not have to spend another day in prison.

We sincerely hope that you will consider our request for leniency in Rasmea's case.

Respectfully,

Fahd Ahmed
Acting Director

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