

February 17, 2015

Dear Honorable Judge Gershwin Drain,

We are writing to request leniency from you in the March 12, 2015, sentencing of our aunt Rasmea Odeh. Our names are Khalid Mashal, Osama Mashal, and Mohammad Mashal. We are writing on behalf of our entire family.

Rasmea is more than just our beloved aunt; we feel as if she is our mother. She has always stood beside us, especially during difficult times in Jordan, Palestine, and the U.S., when our mother, her sister, was diagnosed with breast cancer, blood clots, diabetes, high blood pressure, and much more. At the same time, our father passed away suddenly after the doctors discovered that he had advanced stage leukemia. Since then, Aunt Rasmea has played the role of mother and father in our lives. She is our main supporter, the person who protects us from negative influences, and the one who takes care of all our needs. She has always done everything in her power to help us become successful young adults.

Aunt Rasmea has suffered enough. We are concerned about her health. She was tortured and raped in prison years ago, as you know, when you acknowledged that her claims of torture were "credible." Despite all the pain that she has suffered, she transformed her experiences into a life of meaning, love, and support to her family, her community, and everyone who needs help.

Aunt Rasmea suffers from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and if she gets locked up in a jail cell, it will only aggravate the physical and psychological symptoms of her condition. In fact, her jail stay after the conviction was another difficult and traumatic experience, from which she is still struggling. She does not deserve this pain. She is almost 68 years old, and her health matters to us greatly.

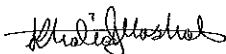
Aunt Rasmea might face deportation, which would mean the end of her ties and relationships to her family, friends, and community. This punishment alone would bring her a significant amount of suffering. Jail time would add unnecessary pain that could be spared with a merciful judgment from Your Honor.

We know that Aunt Rasmea and her legal counsel plan to appeal her conviction. Keeping her out of jail would allow her to be with us, her family, as she continues the valuable work she does for her community, which makes a positive impact on her adopted country that she loves so much.

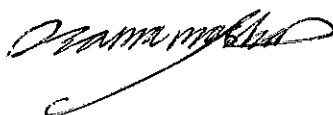
Lastly, although our aunt was found guilty by the jury last year, she is no threat to society. She is a great person who loves this country and her community. She has empowered all of us, as immigrants who came from the Middle East, to call the U.S. home.

Respectfully yours,

Khalid Mashal



Osama Mashal



Mohammad Mashal

