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*Founded in 1960 as the National
Committee to Abolish HUAC*

February 6, 2015

Honorable Judge Gershwin Drain,

On behalf of myself and the Board of Directors of the Defending Dissent Foundation, I am writing to request leniency from you in the March 12 sentencing of Rasmia Odeh. DDF is a civil liberties organization founded in 1960 to promote and strengthen civic engagement in the United States.

Our request for leniency for Ms. Odeh is based on her role as a contributing and productive member of society, doing work that is so critical to hundreds of immigrant and refugee women in Chicago's Arab and Muslim community. She is a leader and role model, having dedicated 50 years of her life to serving her community wherever she has lived. In Chicago, she built the Arab Women's Committee, which has some 600 members and provides support, empowerment and community to immigrant and refugee women from war-torn countries.

We deeply appreciate your consideration of Ms. Odeh's contribution to her community, and not deprive those who have benefited, and could continue to benefit from her good work.

Respectfully yours,

Sue Udry
Executive Director

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Executive Director

Woody Kaplan
President

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Hussein Ibish

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Suraj Sazawal

Chris Townsend

Reverend C. T. Vivian

*In Memory of
Frank Wilkinson,
Director Emeritus &
Chauncey Alexander,
President Emeritus
and all who went before...*

