

February 6, 2015

The Reverend Nancy S. Hildebrand  
St. David's Episcopal Church  
5150 Macomb  
Washington, D.C. 20016

Dear Honorable Judge Gershwin Drain,

I write as an ordained priest in the Diocese of Washington, who is active on the Diocesan Committee in Washington that originated from a partnership agreement between the Bishop of Washington and the Bishop of Jerusalem. We have raised funds for the Diocese of Jerusalem's many schools and hospitals, and have, in the process, become very concerned about the condition of the Palestinians under military rule of the Occupation.

I write to lend my voice for leniency for Ms. Rasmae Odeh. I ask that she be released from jail pending her appeal of her sentence.

I and others on our committee have heard about Ms. Odeh's arrest and imprisonment in an Israeli military court, and also about the military's injunction against her disclosing the details of her arrest and imprisonment. Ms. Odeh is a survivor of torture and lives with PTSD as a result of her experiences in Israeli detention.

I believe that Ms. Odeh has been unfairly put between a rock and a hard place, enjoined not to talk about her arrest and imprisonment, and required to talk about it by a strong ally of Israel, the United States. How would anyone know how to respond in such a case? I ask for mercy for Ms. Odeh, whose health is impaired and who would suffer further in detention as she waits for her appeal.

I fervently pray that justice and peace of mind will finally be Ms. Odeh's reward for her courage under extreme duress and for her incredible record of service to her Chicago community as a servant of Muslim women in need. There is no better example of human service than Ms. Odeh's. How tragic that she is now removed from the ability to serve her community and is separated from her family, from whom she was so cruelly separated while in prison.

I respectfully ask for her release while she awaits for her appeal to the existing decision. Her health depends on it.

Sincerely,

*Nancy S. Hildebrand*

The Reverend Nancy S. Hildebrand  
Associate Rector, St. David's Episcopal Church  
The Diocese of Washington

and

Member

The Companion Diocese Committee for Jerusalem

