



American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee

February 6, 2015

VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL

Honorable Judge Gershwin Drain
Theodore Levin U.S. Courthouse
231 W. Lafayette Blvd., Room 123
Detroit, MI 48226

Re: Request for leniency in the sentencing of Rasmia Odeh

Honorable Judge Gershwin Drain:

I am writing on behalf of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), the largest Arab-American civil rights organization in the United States. ADC has protected the Arab-American community for thirty five years against discrimination, defamation, racism, and stereotyping. The purpose of this letter is to request your leniency in the sentencing of Ms. Rasmia Odeh, which is scheduled for the 12th of March 2015.

Ms. Odeh has demonstrated herself to be an exemplary citizen and a well-respected community leader in Chicago, Illinois. She has dedicated over 40 years of her life to serving the community. Through her position as the Associate Director of the Arab American Action Network, Ms. Odeh has worked on issues pertaining to women, addressing matters ranging from promoting literacy and civic engagement, to domestic violence and discrimination. In her leadership position, Ms. Odeh provided regular programming to help women learn English, and get a better understanding of the culture in America so they can easily assimilate into American society..

Additionally, as a survivor of torture, engagement with society is critical to Ms. Odeh's emotional health. Ms. Odeh was subjected to torture and sexual abuse while she was detained in Israel. As a result of the torture, Ms. Odeh suffers from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Further isolation will only exacerbate her PTSD, and lead to a deterioration of her physical and mental health.

For the reasons mentioned above, ADC urges you show leniency in the sentencing of Ms. Odeh. ADC strongly encourages you to take our plea into account and give the matter the serious attention that it deserves.

Sincerely,

Samer E. Khalaf, Esq.
ADC President

