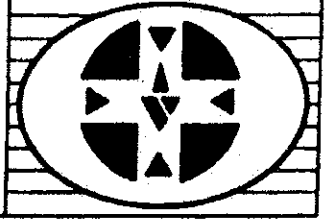


Priests of the Sacred Heart

DEHON FORMATION COMMUNITY
1421 E. 53RD ST.
CHICAGO, IL 60615-4501
(773) 752-2325



January 25, 2015

Dear Judge Drain,

I write to ask your consideration of leniency in your March 12 sentencing of MS Rasmea Odeh for conviction of Unlawful Procurement of Naturalization. You may recall that I have written to you previously in support of her.

I am Robert Bossie, a Roman Catholic Priest, a member of the world-wide congregation of priests and brothers, the Priests of the Sacred Heart. During my ministry, I have traveled extensively to various countries including Israel and Palestine. You may also wish to know that before joining my religious community, I was an active member of the U.S. Air Force and an electronic technician and electro-mechanical design draftsman in civilian industry.

I make this request for leniency for several reasons. First, I have known MS Odeh for more than ten years. In that period I have come to know her on personal and professional levels. I know her to be a person who has committed herself to the betterment of the immigrant community, as well as the Chicago community and the larger human community. She has always appeared to me to be a caring and forthright person of great integrity.

For several years, I was part of a team which brought groups of men and woman studying for ministry with the Catholic church to the Arab American Action Network where Rasmea works. During that time, she not only made significant presentation to the groups but she spent time interacting with them on a very personal level. For me this was a very small example of the care, sensitivity and professionalism of MS Odeh.

I ask your consideration of leniency for a second reason. I have worked with persons who were subjected to torture and know, in a small way, the lifelong impact this horrific experience has had upon them. Further time in prison for MS Odeh will only serve to worsen her experience of torture and the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder from which she suffers, as has the time she spent in jail following her recent conviction. I have also learned through torture survivors that participation in improving the community is a major key in healing the emotional/psychological scars of torture. For this reason, I ask you to allow her to maintain her position in the community while she pursues her appeal of her conviction.

Finally, I would ask you to consider the devastating impact upon MS Odeh should her appeal be rejected and she be deported. She will be cut off from all of her supportive connections fostered these many years she has been in the United States, including family, friends and coworkers. For me, this is punishment enough for any person.

Judge Drain, as a person who has long worked for justice in our struggling human community and one who is committed to a life of compassion and love, please allow me to suggest that compassion for MS Odeh will well serve the justice you are sworn to uphold. Please be lenient toward her.

Respectfully,

Fr. Robert Bossie, SCJ
Fr. Robert Bossie, SCJ

