

In The name of God, the most Beneficent, the most Merciful

To Your Honor,

Hello Sir. My name is Faruq Baqi and I am the son of Dr. Khadijah Ghafur. I am writing this letter as a plea for leniency for my mother. When I think of a hero, I see my mother. My entire life, I have seen my mother helping and caring for others. She has always ignored her personal comfort for the well being of others. For example, growing up, I can rarely remember a time when we lived alone. When there was an individual or family in need, my mother simply told them, "my house is your home". I was always taught to be honest, caring and honorable. My mother has always stressed the importance of being an asset to my community and my country. I am my mother's only son and have never been jailed or have ever been a criminal. Now as a husband and a father of three, I must follow my mothers' example and lesson's to raise my children and care for my family. Sir, for every person that knows my mother, you will find many personal stories of how my mother positively impacted their lives. I may be my mother's only son, but my mother has many adopted sons, daughter's, nephews and nieces.

My mother opened a school to benefit the community. A variety of beliefs and cultures were involved in Gateway Academy. It was a beautiful thing. My mother did not open a school to commit crimes. She opened a school to improve the lives of parents and children of California, which she did. Unfortunately, to every positive action, there are barriers of the tests and trials of life. I must say Sir; my mother is innocent of the charges placed against her. She does not even have the money for proper legal representation. As a result of not having proper legal representation, a jury found my mother guilty of crimes that I know in my heart my mother is innocent of.

Sir, please do not put my mother behind bars. I could not bear it. My grandmother could not bear it. My wife and my children could not bear it. I am saddened with tears after every visit to my mother in the county jail. My mother is an elderly woman who is not physically prepared to endure time cased in concrete and steel. Please give my mother community service or a fine, something more fitting than imprisonment. My children ask where their grandmother is everyday and my only response is, " She is in California dealing with some legal issues". My oldest is four years old and they don't know the dynamics of the situation, they only understand that they love their grandmother and she isn't around to talk to them or read their favorite stories. May my letter find you in good health and may you give the leniency that my family needs.

Thank you,
Faruq Baqi

FILED

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FRESNO COUNTY COURTS
By _____
DEPT 53

Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)
28 East Jackson Blvd., Suite 1410
Chicago, IL 60604

Inner-City Muslim Action Network (IMAN)
2744 West 63rd Street
Chicago, IL 60629

Islamic Society of North America (ISNA)
P.O. Box 38
Plainfield, IN 46168

Muslim Alliance in North America (MANA)
P.O. Box 910375
Lexington, KY 40591

Civil Rights Education Center
28 East Jackson Blvd., Suite 1000
Chicago, IL 60604

Muslim Legal Fund of America (MLFA)
2701 West 15th Street, Suite 640
Plano, TX 75075

Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA)
166-26 89th Avenue
Jamaica, NY 11432