

Trials and Tribulations: No Context, No Justice

The U.S. vs. Palestinian-American Rasmia Odeh



March at federal court, Detroit.

Photo: Mary Beaudoin

Supporters packed the courtroom and overflow courtroom in the federal courthouse of the Eastern District, Detroit, in early November, 2014, when a beloved Palestinian-American activist and law-abiding naturalized citizen, 67-year-old Rasmia Odeh, was tried for alleged intentional lying on a citizenship application that she made in the year 2004. Used as evidence against her was a 45-year old conviction in an Israeli military court, based on her forced confession of participation in a bombing plot in Jerusalem when she was 21 years old, though the confession had been obtained through 25-days of sadistically brutal torture and rape, as well as the torture of her father. She was incarcerated in an Israeli prison for ten years. In the 2014 trial, her defense team was not allowed to talk about the injustice of the decades-old military trial. Horrified at the injustice of revictimizing Rasmia in a highly-politicized trial, people demonstrated in cities around the U.S., and in Oakland, California, locked down the federal court by chaining themselves to the courthouse doors. Mary Beaudoin's report from the trial, "How Palestinian-American Rasmia Odeh was revictimized in US federal court : mintpress.com. More information and her defense: uspcn.org

An Embarrassment of Nuclear Proportions



These peace activists are serving federal time for sabotage after they breached a nuclear facility in Oakridge, Tennessee and painted slogans warning about the danger of nuclear weapons.

Photo: Linda Davidson/Washington Post/Getty Images

Sister Megan Rice, an 84-year-old Catholic nun of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus; and Catholic Workers Michael Walli, 64 years old (Washington, D.C.) and Greg Boertje-Obed, 58 years old (Duluth, Minnesota) are serving three- to five-year sentences in federal prison for entering the Y12 Nuclear Weapons Complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and painting slogans such as “The fruit of justice is peace” on the facility. The intent was to make a statement about the continuing production of nuclear weapons components at the complex, as well as to oppose plans for a new multi-billion dollar uranium processing facility that would produce thermonuclear cores for U.S. weapons. Plowshares Transform Now, the movement they are a part of, said: “They received a harsh and unjust sentence, in part, we think, for embarrassing authorities about the lax security.”

—Transform Now Plowshares; The New Liberator: Freedom’s Journal; Veterans for Peace, Fall 2014 Newsletter