

Lynne Meredith

RE: HAMEDA HASAN

I am a professional author. I also am the Inmate Law Clerk at the Victorville Federal Correctional Camp. I have known Hameda Hasan for almost five years. She is an amazing woman.

Hameda is a warrior for justice and is the most courageous and resilient woman I have ever met. It has been an absolute pleasure to know her.

I believe that Hameda's tenacity and unwavering faith are based upon her solid connection to God and boundless love for her family who adore her.

I became familiar with Hameda's case by watching a documentary on her heartrending plight with the Justice Department. The gross 'injustice' of a system called 'justice' offended my deepest sense of right and wrong and touched that part of my humanness shared by others without a severed conscience.

Watching that documentary invoked genuine tears of empathy. It also created feelings of outrage that a sentence could be so obviously and grossly incommensurate to the crime.

The real victims in this case were Hameda's young children who were sentenced to "life without the daily presence of a mother." Hameda was sentenced, not only to "life in prison" but was also deprived of the deepest and most instinctive right of a woman, the right to be a "hands on" mother. She could not watch her beautiful children grow on a day-to-day basis.

Is the world a safer place because Hameda Hasan, as one of the prosecutor's "throw away" people, has been removed from society? To those who know Hameda the answer is obvious. Hameda, and many others like her would be an incredible asset to society.

Hameda Hasan has been on a "Department of Justice Roller Coaster Ride" that would have destroyed others with less fortitude than her. She has tasted justice only to have it's sweet taste replaced by what, to others, could have been a bitter pill to swallow. Hameda, however, has taken the setbacks in this case with dignity, honor and faith that God had a bigger plan. She knows that she is a part of a bigger puzzle that will help, not only her, but others caught in a web of injustice and inequity.

In Ms. Hasan's most recent travesty of justice, she was informed by her attorney that her sentence had been reduced to "time served." There were screams of uninhibited joy all over the prison Camp and at Hameda's workplace! We stood around the phone and applauded as she told her ecstatic family!

There were hugs and tears of joy and we shared that part of "humanness" that rejoices at someone's ultimate good fortune!

Girls went around cubicle to cubicle, gathering food for a celebration party. Everyone united and put together a microwave feast for our beloved Hameda, whose time had finally come! No one was more deserving.

The feeling in the air was electric! Three quarters of the Camp was there for Hameda's 'going home' party! There was laughter and music and dancing and a unity like I had never felt before.

'Home.' which has an extra special meaning when you are incarcerated was planning a big celebration for her return and people were flying in from other parts of the country. Hameda is extremely loved.

A few days later the news came, that kind of news that makes you feel that you are being 'kicked in the gut.' The 'that can't be true' kind of news...Hameda Hasan's Judge had reversed herself.

We were devastated and disheartened...That is everyone except for Hameda. She amazed us all. She took the news with dignity and class, in a way that honored God. She did not blame or doubt God for a moment because she knew there is a bigger picture to all of this than she can see.

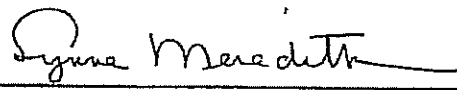
If you are reading this, you are a part of that picture, one that helps not only our Hameda but thousands of others who were sentenced under laws that had no sense of-equity or justice. -

Since the Guidelines have become Advisory and Judges have regained their power, the sentences recently imposed, at least at the Women's Camp, where I am the Law Clerk, have been fairer and more commiserate with the offenses.

However, the Hameda Hasan's of the prison system are trapped under extreme disparity that makes a mockery of the judicial system.

It is time for a change and I pray that Ms Hasan will be granted the freedom she so justly deserves and can participate in being a "hands on" grandma.

Dated this fifth day of November, 2009.



Lynne Meredith