



# EXHIBIT A



Elizabeth M. Molchany

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July 7, 2008

The Honorable Leonie Brinkema  
U.S. District Court Judge  
Eastern District of Virginia  
Albert V. Bryan Courthouse  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, Virginia, 22314-5798

Re: Dr. Sami Al-Arian

Dear Judge Brinkema:

I write in support of an immediate release on bond of Dr. Sami Al-Arian.

First, to describe my background, I am and have been a member in good standing of the Virginia State Bar continuously and without interruption since October 1976. It was not long thereafter that I was appointed to my first federal criminal case in the same court where you now preside.

I am one of the founders of the Virginia Women Attorneys' Association (1980), was its first elected Representative for Northern Virginia, and was appointed to Committees of the Virginia State Bar many years ago when the Bar was reluctant to have women serve in any formal capacity.

I have also been appointed by the Alexandria City Council, the Front Royal Town Council (where I now live) and the Warren County Board of Supervisors to serve on many boards, commissions, and special committees. Among these, I served as Vice Chair of the Alexandria Board of Zoning Appeals and most recently was selected as a Blue Ribbon Panel member to help the Town of Front Royal select a town manager.

With regard to Dr. Al-Arian, I have known him personally since 1998 and have great admiration for him, his wife, and two of his children that I also know. We both served as representatives to an organization whose objective was to protect dissent and preserve political freedom. He was much admired and respected there, always calm, always reasonable in his presentations, his objectives, and his actions.



The Honorable Leonie Brinkema - July 7, 2008 - Page two

I walked with him and his wife, Nahla Al-Arian, in anti-war marches in Washington. (She, by the way, is well-educated, an independent voice, and as close to sainthood as one can be.) Many others would rush to talk to him and to express their affection for him. He was honored by the students whom he taught as a professor of South Florida University. These accolades were deserved. He did much to promote harmony and calm. Organizations which have supported him continuously all these years of persecution have included people of all races and ethnicities, including prominent Jews and Christians.

Dr. Al-Arian would be and is welcome in my home at any time. He is decent and worthy of trust. He is not perfect, as none of us are, but he is not dangerous. He is not violent.

It is unreasonable to continue to hold him, a man whose charge is not one of terrorism and whom the Justice Department admits has little knowledge, if any, to offer. He has no passport and, because of his prominence throughout the country, he is and would be easily recognizable with or without a beard. Even so, he is not of the temperament to run and hide.

The government has been treated him severely in and out of prison for many years. His punishment has gone beyond all reasonable measures. As others have stated, his release would pose no risk. Please release him forthwith, allow him to be with his family and friends after all these years, and to be of substantive assistance to his attorneys.

Thank you, your Honor, for your wisdom and your patience. Thank you for your courage to provide us justice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Elizabeth M. Molchany', is written over a horizontal line.

Elizabeth M. Molchany



The Westchester

Washington, DC 20016

4 July 2008

The Honorable Leonie Brinkema:

I am writing to support the release of Dr. Sami Al-Arian on bond pending trial. I do not think that there is a risk of his not appearing at the trial and he has already been imprisoned for an extended period of time.

I am a professor of Islamic history at Georgetown University, where I have been on the Core Faculty of the School of Foreign Service since 1995. Before that, I was in the History Department of the University of New Hampshire for thirty years. I teach modern Islamic history and also serve as a consultant on modern and contemporary Islamic movements for the State Department, the Department of Defense, and the National Intelligence Council, among other organizations and institutions.

I have known Dr. Al-Arian for almost two decades through meeting at scholarly conferences. I have come to know him best through his family. His daughter, Laila, was in two of my courses while she was an undergraduate student at Georgetown University and I was her advisor in a Certificate (minor) program. His son Abdullah is a doctoral candidate in history at Georgetown University and is currently writing his dissertation. He will be teaching a course in the History Department curriculum this coming fall semester. I am Abdullah's dissertation mentor and doctoral program advisor and I work regularly with him.

Because of Dr. Al-Arian's devotion to his family, I have gotten to know him through his children. It is important for his family for him to be released on bond pending trial. It is highly improbable that he would break the trust involved in being released on bond.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

John Voll  
Professor of Islamic History  
Georgetown University



To the Honorable Judge Leonie Brinkema:

I am writing to request that you release Dr. Sami Al-Arian on bail. I have known Dr. Al Arian's children since the beginning of his incarceration and have seen how their father's case and treatment has impacted their family. I met Dr. Al Arian briefly in 2001 when he came to visit Georgetown University and took him to be a kind man who is dedicated to his family. Regardless of the difficulties he has endured over the past five years, he has always told his children to focus on their own lives, education and careers, knowing how much his case is impacting their lives. All five of his children are American citizens who are successful in their academic and professional careers and have struggled immensely to work towards this success during very difficult times for their family. Regardless of the court's or the Department of Justice's opinion about Dr. Al Arian's innocence or guilt in this case, one cannot deny the difficulties that he and his family have endured. Granting him bail in preparation for his coming trial would allow Dr. Al Arian to have a short physical and mental rest after his years in jail, many of which were spent in solitary confinement, and give his family a small opportunity to spend some time with him after waiting in limbo for 5 years. The anticipation of not knowing their father's fate is more difficult than his imprisonment. Dr. Al Arian was an active and positive member of society before his incarceration and deserves to be released on bail. We live in a country where all individuals are innocent until proven guilty, and where we treat all human beings with respect and dignity. In the true spirit of the American justice system and American values, Dr. Al Arian deserves the right to be released on bail in preparation for his trial.

I thank you kindly for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Hila Hanif  
Candidate for Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy, 2009  
Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University  
Department of State Critical Language Scholarship Fellow



Judge Leonie Brinkema  
U.S. District Court Judge  
Eastern District of Virginia  
Albert V. Bryan Courthouse  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, Virginia, 22314-5798

To the Honorable Leonie Brinkema:

My name is Sahar Ullah, and I recently returned home to the U.S. after having studied abroad at the American University of Cairo for the past year.

I write to you with a heavy heart, as a person of conscience, a friend of the Al-Arian children and as a young American who needs to believe in the U.S. Constitution to ask that Professor Sami al-Arian is released on bail so that he can finally be reunited with his family and loved ones.

Nothing attests more to a person's character than the people around him. I know Dr. Al-Arian's children and it is clear from their strength of character, respect and compassion for others; and integrity that their father is also a man of all these qualities. It is a great loss that such an individual, whom we as Americans have much to benefit from, would remain behind bars when it is precisely those qualities we need most to help the state of our communities.

It is clear for many of us who have been following his ordeal that Dr. Al-Arian is a man of his word. It is also clear that he is a man of deep conviction in freedom of speech and who would not flee given the chance as we have witnessed consistently through his public involvement; through his bringing inter-faith communities together and raising awareness regarding human rights; through his hunger strikes while imprisoned; and through his children and wife's tireless engagement with issues of civic and political importance.

As an American citizen, I am deeply concerned by the precedent Dr. Al-Arian's imprisonment will set for the future of our legal system. He has been kept away from his five children and wife, sometimes under very harsh conditions, for more than 5 years although he was not convicted of one charge laid against him. But I am still hopeful. I am hopeful that in the end, people of conscience will prove that integrity and justice are not empty words in the United States of America.

Please let him go on bail. You will give hope to and have the deepest gratitude from hundreds of thousands of Americans and citizens of the world.

With regards,  
Sahar Ullah



Faiza Ali

Arlington, VA 22206

July 7, 2008

Judge Leonie Brinkema  
U.S. District Court Judge  
Eastern District of Virginia  
Albert V. Bryan Courthouse  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, Virginia, 22314-5798

To the Honorable Leonie Brinkema,

I am writing to you to request that Dr. Sami al-Arian be released on bail while he awaits his trial date in August. Dr. Al-Arian is the loving father of five children, all of whom are American citizens. He has called this country his home for more than thirty years and has strong ties with numerous communities in the United States. Despite all that he has endured in the past five years, Dr. Sami al-Arian has maintained, and urged all those around him to maintain, great respect for our judicial system. His willing compliance with our legal system and his benign protest of his treatment in prison are clear proof that he would never do anything to undermine our legal system.

We can therefore rest assured that Dr. Al-Arian would not violate the terms of his bail. His integrity would not allow him to even contemplate any violation of his bail. In addition, the government possesses all of his travel documents, and he has stated his willingness to be continually monitored while under home confinement. After spending more than five years in prison, the last couple of months of which were above and beyond the completion of his sentence on April 7, 2008, Dr. Al-Arian deserves to come home and await his trial date in the loving company of his family and community.

I live in Virginia and work in Washington D.C. with our federal government. I have the pleasure of knowing some of Dr. Al-Arian's children and hold him and his family in the highest esteem. We do not know what the future holds for Dr. al-Arian and his family, but I ask that our legal system grant them some respite in this arduous and painful process by permitting Dr. Al-Arian to be released on bail for the few months before his trial. I cannot express in words what joy it would bring to the many communities that support him, let alone his family. Thank you kindly for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Faiza Ali', is written over a light blue circular stamp that partially overlaps the signature.

Faiza Ali  
Arlington, VA



I first met Dr. Sami Al-Arian at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law. I was a student there and we invited him in 2000 to speak about civil rights issues and the use of secret evidence in immigration proceedings. He was a great speaker, informed, and convincing. He struck me as a committed reformer. He called for changing the American political system from inside and self-empowerment. He had previously demonstrated this by actively campaigning for President Bush in the 2000 election.

As I walked with him and a friend after the talk, I spoke with him one-on-one. We did not discuss political matters, just lighter fare. He was very calm and approachable. I appreciated meeting him.

As I became familiar with the accusations against him, I found them to be politically-motivated and baseless. Figures such as Bill O'Reilly began a campaign against him. I thought it all absurd and so out of step with his activities. he was being targeted for his constitutionally-protected activities. I was shocked when the government followed up with a prosecution. During that time, I came to know his family. They are truly a respectful and patient group of people put under incredible pressures by our justice system. Through this, the many conversations I have had, they have shown no anger: just careful perseverance, even as my resentment grew.

The government has taken this too far, for too long. Granting a bond is the least that can be done in the way of justice. I'm not sure if anything can rectify the undue suffering of this 5 years of pain and inhumanity.

If you knew him as I do, you would not hesitate to grant this and every other request made by the family. I am convinced the persecution of Dr. Al-Arian will stand out as a disgraceful episode in American history ? another sad travesty against the legal foundations this country holds up with so much pride.

William Youmans, JD

Ann Arbor, MI 48104





Leena Al-Arian

Arlington, VA 22209

July 7, 2008

Judge Leonie Brinkema  
U.S. District Court Judge  
Albert V. Bryan Courthouse  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, Virginia, 22314-5798

Dear Judge Brinkema,

I am writing to you about my father, Dr. Sami Al-Arian, a person whom Your Honor is considering releasing on bail this week. When I was born in Chapel Hill, NC, twenty-three years ago, my parents brought me into a world where democracy and the pursuit of justice reigned above all else. As stateless Palestinians, my parents had no home to call their own, except for the country that adopted them and gave their five children citizenship, rights, and access to the best education in the world. Unlike many, my father recognized and appreciated these opportunities, and ultimately sought to make the most of his thirty-four years of living and thriving in the United States.

Carried by a profound sense of idealism as he clung to the values of our nation, he was always a dedicated civic and religious leader. During this election year, in particular, I am constantly reminded of his efforts to get out the vote in the 2000 elections, in which he encouraged his peers and constituents within the Muslim community to make their voices heard at the polls. Further, as an educator and a scholar, his involvement with a Tampa nonprofit organization led to the employment of alternative teaching methods in local public and private schools that helped thousands of under-privileged students. As an organizer for the Hillsborough Organization for Progress and Equality (HOPE), composed of over twenty churches and our mosque, he tirelessly advocated on behalf of numerous causes, including calling on local officials to support low-income housing and higher wages for working-class men and women.

Throughout my childhood and teenage years, I have especially admired the selfless commitment my father has demonstrated to the students at the Muslim school he founded. As the principal, he touched the lives of many of my classmates and friends, instilling in them a profound sense of civic duty and social consciousness that influenced many of them to pursue careers in public health, education, journalism, medicine, law, and firefighting. My friends fondly and gratefully recall specific lessons my father imparted on them, and recount the occasions in which they put them to practice. Simultaneously, all have expressed a deep regret that the younger generation of students was deprived of my father's presence and guidance at the school.

At the time of my father's incarceration, my younger siblings A and L, were 12 and 9, respectively. This fall, A will begin as an undergraduate at the University of Chicago, and Lama will begin studying for the SATs. In my father's absence, my family and I have suffered tremendously as a result of his prison conditions, trial, and our inevitable fragmentation. Despite the circumstances, my father has continued to guide us and play as active a role in our lives as possible. However, no matter how often we speak to him on the phone, we still feel a huge disconnect while he remains imprisoned, as though he is merely a ghost. Your Honor, as a loving daughter, I beg you to please release my father on bail and allow him to return to me and family. My younger siblings need a father and a guiding force in their lives, to be there with them in the flesh, and at such a crucial time in their lives.

Very Respectfully,  
Leena Al-Arian



July 7, 2008

Raha Rafii

Fort Lee, NJ 07024

Judge Leonie Brinkema  
U.S. District Court Judge  
Eastern District of Virginia  
Albert V. Bryan Courthouse  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, Virginia, 22314-5798

To the Honorable Leonie Brinkema:

I am writing to you because I am concerned for Dr. Sami Al-Arian, his present situation, and the new charge against him of contempt of court. I attended university with his daughter Laila, an extremely sensitive and accomplished young woman, and have seen firsthand the great strain his continued imprisonment has placed upon her and her mother since that time. Furthermore, his prolonged absence as a result of the government's actions has severely hobbled his family's attempts at living a normal life, compounding the difficulties of running a now single-parent household with the rigor of providing for Dr. Al-Arian's defense, in addition to the emotional anguish of worrying about his well-being. I know that allowing Dr. Al-Arian to visit his family, even for a little while, would mean the world to them and enable them to endure this difficult time with a little more hope. Please grant the Al-Arian family a respite from the hardship and separation brought on by the proceedings by allowing Dr. Al-Arian to see his wife and children, so that they may remember what it is like to be a family again, even if it is only for a short while. Surely they deserve that much.

Sincerely,

Raha Rafii



NOOR SALHAB

Tampa, Florida 33617

July 8, 2008

Honorable Leonie Brinkema  
United States District Court Judge  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-5798

Re: Sami Al-Arian

Dear Judge Brinkema:

I am writing you in regard to Dr. Sami Al-Arian whose fate will be decided in your Court.

I have been living with my family in Tampa since 1983. While we have known Dr. Al-Arian since 1988, we got to know him and his family even better since 1995. I worked with him for many years, got to know him and his family on a personal basis. I have served with him on two boards: the board of the school which he founded in 1992 (The Islamic Academy of Florida) and the board of the mosque (Islamic Community of Tampa).

The heart of what I want to tell you is that I have never seen a person before or since with such integrity, so hard working and so dedicated in my life. At the school he was an excellent educator and principal, teaching my children and others discipline and morality. On the mosque board he was the best leader our community ever had. On the community level he sought out opportunities to serve. Our mosque was the first Islamic group to join the Hillsborough Organization for Progress and Equality (HOPE), a group of twenty churches united to fight for better education, for human rights, against drugs and street crimes, and for transparency and accountability in government.

Dr. Al-Arian believes in the American Constitution and the First Amendment. That is why he spoke so loudly about the plight of the Palestinians and made some people mad. However, his minority opinion is the opinion of millions of Palestinians living under occupation (and others all over the universe) and he was speaking truth. His



advocating of this truth is why he was placed on trial in Tampa, yet the jury found him guilty of nothing on all counts.

As you know, the Department of Justice will not yet let him go into exile and, instead of honoring its promises, is trying him again.

Please honor the check-and-balances of our system and release Dr. Sami Al-Arian and allow him to go to his family who has suffered enough.

Yours very truly,

Noor Salhab



July 2, 2008

Dear Judge Leonie Brinkema

I am writing because I believe it would be in the interest of justice that Dr. Sami Al-Arian be released on bond pending trial.

I am University Professor of Religion and International Affairs at Georgetown and prior to that Loyola Professor of Middle East Studies at the College of the Holy Cross. I have been a consultant to and spoken on the Middle East and Islam and global terrorism before all of our major government agencies.

I have known Dr. Al-Arian for approximately twenty years. I came to know of Sami Al-Arian's academic status and role at the University of South Florida, the high regard in which he was held as a professor, in conversations with the then Dean of Academic Affairs and others, when the university was attempting to recruit me for a position there. Over the years I encountered Sami on occasion in Washington, at conferences run by Professor (Rabbi) Jacob Neusner at the University of South Florida, and at conferences sponsored by WISE, a think-tank that brought together prominent scholars and experts from academia, the U.S. government, and the media. He also founded and ran a high school whose graduates excelled with remarkable numbers going on to some of the best colleges and universities in our country.

Sami is a dedicated family man. Over the years I have come to know his wife, Nahla, and several of his children, especially Laila and Abdullah who have been students at Georgetown University and worked in our center. Laila went on to earn an MA in Journalism and has worked for Vanity Fair, published articles and co-published a book. Abdullah, a Duke graduate is completing his Ph D at Georgetown. Leena has completed an MA at the University of Chicago and Ali will be an undergraduate there in the Fall.

Sami Al-Arian is a proud, dedicated and committed American as well as a proud and committed Palestinian. He is an extraordinarily bright, articulate, scholar and intellectual-activist, a man of conscience with a strong commitment to peace and social justice. He has been involved not only in the Muslim but also non-Muslim communities locally in Tampa and nationally.

From everything I know Sami has been a model prisoner despite at times some very difficult prison situations and treatment. He has been incarcerated continuously for more than five years. The jury verdict in his trial sent a message domestically and internationally that our system could and did



work. The subsequent failure to accept the *recommendation* of the government and the defense has put tremendous stress on both Sami and his family. I hope that in the interest of justice and compassion, the court will release him on bond pending trial.

Thank you very much for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

John L. Esposito  
University Professor and Director  
Georgetown University



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To the Honorable Judge Leonie Brinkema:

Greetings.

I am writing with respect to a bail hearing you will preside over this Thursday, July 10th for Dr. Sami al-Arian.

You are surely aware of the 5 years of harsh treatment Dr. al-Arian has received in numerous federal prisons, 2.5 of these years after he was to be released per his plea agreement with the US government previously.

Dr. al-Arian and his family have suffered enough. I respectfully ask that you grant Dr. al-Arian bail to be free to see his wife and 5 children, who have ensured untold hardships through this ordeal. I am personally acquainted with 3 of his children and will attest to the trauma, pain, and undue suffering they have experienced as a result of their father being imprisoned for 2.5 years now on what amounts to administrative detention.

As a judge, we implore you to act wisely and to release Dr. al-Arian as per the plea agreement he signed with the US government at the conclusion of his trial 2.5 years ago, in which he as to be released from custody.

You have an opportunity to correct an injustice with truth and this is what we ask you to do on Thursday. Release Dr. al-Arian on bail.

Sincerely,  
Brian Wood

7/8/2008



July 7, 2008

The Honorable Leonie Brinkema  
United States District Court Judge  
Albert V. Bryan Courthouse  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, Virginia, 22314-5798

Dear Judge Brinkema:

I am writing in order to relate my personal experience with the al-Arian family. Unfortunately, I am unable to personally attest to Dr. al-Arian's character, the subject of the bail hearing before your court. However, I am able to attest to the character, integrity, and fortitude of Dr. Al-Arian's children. It is my hope that by relating my own personal experience with the al-Arian family, I may shed some insight into the family as a whole, and ultimately, persuade the court to grant Dr. Al-Arian bail.

As I am sure your Honor is well aware, Dr. Al-Arian has been in prison for over five years. During this time, Dr. Al-Arian's eldest son has married, his daughters have completed not only their undergraduate, but graduate education, and his youngest son, A[REDACTED], is now transitioning to college at the University of Chicago. Despite the pain, heartbreak, and stress of their father's condition and continuing legal battle, the al-Arian children have overcome tremendous obstacles to achieve their own admirable personal achievements. However, each and every personal triumph has drowned in the plight and tragedy of their father's imprisonment.

My own experience with the al-Arian children began in the fall of 2005 when Dr. Al-Arian's second daughter, Leena, arrived at the University of Chicago for graduate studies -- where I was completing my undergraduate degree. That fall Leena not only commenced her rigorous program, but also flew back and forth to Tampa for her father's trial. During the fall months, Leena and I would often have extremely emotional discussions on the plight of her father, her trust in the American justice system, and the toll it was taking on her personally. I recall one conversation vividly: The night following closing arguments, I attempted to comfort Leena by urging her to trust 'the system' and to trust in God. Admittedly, I myself believed my





words would provide little solace. Leena said very little during that conversation, but she kindly acknowledged my words, stated that she was tired, and said "I just don't know."

Her hopes and my own words were validated shortly after our conversation with the jury's verdict. When I spoke to Leena after the verdict, she stated that, more than anything, the verdict reaffirmed her belief in truth and justice. While the exchange may seem quite clichéd and trite, I assure you it was sincere, powerful, and emotional.

Over the coming months and years, as the memory and seeming validity of the jury's verdict faded, I have watched Leena's family tragically fragment. Leena would often share with me her concerns about Dr. Al-Arian's youngest son, A. He was being teased at school, called a terrorist by his peers, and was not doing well. Leena and Abdullah would often attempt to reach out to A. and she often asked me for advice on how relate and comfort her brother. As A. *matured in the presence of his close-knit and loving family, he excelled in his studies. Last fall, I, along with Leena, Laila, and Abdullah, helped A. with his personal essay for college. The essay was powerful account of the values his father instilled in him, his childhood memories --a vast majority of which included his father's incarceration-- , and his own transition into a young man. His academic record, which is truly a testament to the supportive and caring al-Arian family, and his essay, gained him admission into my own alma mater, the University of Chicago.*

The toll on the al-Arian family, however, is not only visible as broad shifts in their life, but also on a day to day basis. When the family decided to pack up their belongings and memories and move to Egypt, Leena found a signed pair of Hakeem Olajuwon's (an NBA Hall of Fame basketball player) shoes that her father had given her brother. She asked if I wanted them because they didn't have space for such personal items in the move to Egypt.

The move to Egypt itself brought its own difficulties. I recall last summer, when Leena was visiting Laila in New York. One day, I decided to take Leena out to show her the best "cupcake" place in town. Throughout the car ride, from West Harlem to the Lower East Side, in late afternoon New York traffic, Leena was on the phone with her father's attorneys, her elder sister, her elder brother, the attorneys again, her sister again, her attorneys for a third time, her brother for a second time, etc. While I am not privy to the exact details, apparently the Department of Justice confiscated the container of carrying all of the family's personal items and



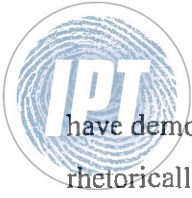
furniture bound for Egypt. The al-Arians had to pay for the delay costs and the re-packaging of the items in the container as all the contents were searched. As Leena told me what was happening, she sighed and almost inaudibly asked: "Will it ever end?" She then requested a couple minutes of silence in order to compose herself.

When asked, most Americans will affirm their resolute and staunch belief in the American judicial system. However, the al-Arians have and are testing the system in a manner none of us would wish to endure. As a law student, I hold fast to the belief that justice and truth ultimately prevail through our system of government and judicial balance. This summer, I am an intern at the Philadelphia District Attorney's office, and participate directly in a system which I believe can be fair, impartial and equitable. However, the most indelible lesson I have learned is that truth lies not in the prosecution's briefs, but in the verdict and judgment of those in the jury box. The underlying equity of our system is that one's fate is not in the hands of a specific party, but in the hands of one's own neighbors and fellow citizens.

I cannot and will not state Dr. al-Arian's innocence. I have heard neither the evidence nor the argument. However, I know that a jury of his peers did state his innocence. For me, that verdict, not any brief before the court, any newspaper article, blog commentary, or pundit analysis, is sufficient.

While the circumstances surrounding Dr. al-Arian's plea agreement remain contentious, and I will leave it to the attorney's briefs to relay specific legal arguments, I urge the court to remember that a jury of Dr. al-Arian's peers acquitted him of all but two charges, his family has suffered immensely during the past five years, and Dr. al-Arian has fully completed the sentence imposed upon him by the Judge. As such, while many may accuse Dr. Al-Arian of being a vicious, terrorist mastermind, twelve jurors did not. He is not incarcerated because of a forcible felony --rape, murder, armed burglary--, and Dr. al-Arian and his children have steadfastly maintained their desire to fight the charges against him.

I can relate to the Court many more personal anecdotes involving my experience with all of the al-Arian children. However, for the sake of brevity, I simply state that all are equally touching, heartbreaking, and tragic. In the time that I have known the al-Arian children, they



have demonstrated the highest integrity, kindness, and warmth. As I related, Leena once rhetorically asked me if this tragic struggle will ever end. I trust and hope that the Court ultimately does end this seemingly punitive ordeal. However, until the al-Arian family, myself, and this country, again test our reliance in American judicial system this August, I am honored to attest to the character of the al-Arian family and hope that the Court will allow Dr. al-Arian's bail request so that his family may begin their healing process.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Hasan Ali'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

M. Hasan Ali



**Dr. Frank M. Tedesco**

Largo, Florida 33773-4614

July 7, 2008

Judge Leonie Brinkema

Dear Judge Brinkema,

I write to you this morning to urge you to release Dr. Sami Al-Arian on bail.

I met Dr. Al-Arian and his wife Nahla at a meeting of Tampa Bay citizens concerned about our natural environment in 2001. He struck me as an articulate and caring father and husband who was honestly interested in seeking ways to improve the life of the community through interfaith cooperation. As a college lecturer in world religions and anthropology, I always look for members of diverse faith traditions who are willing to engage in meaningful dialogue with followers whose beliefs differ from their own. On the various occasions I met him, Dr. Al-Arian always struck me as someone who is informed and respectful of other faiths and their rights. He is proud of his American wife and children and he should be for they are surprisingly happy and successful in spite of the stresses they have had to endure during their father's incarceration. To me, their personalities are testimony to the love and trust their father created at home and in the community. I asked Mrs. Al-Arian to speak about the role of women in Islamic society in my USF classes. Her poise, intelligence and openness reflects very well on her husband Sami. She is not a victim of an oppressive husband who uses his Muslim faith to suppress his wife! Quite the contrary!

I believe you can entrust Dr. Sami Al-Arian to be released on bail. He is a gentle and law abiding man who wishes to fulfill whatever legitimate obligations he has to the state so that he can return to his family permanently.

Sincerely,

Frank M. Tedesco, Ph.D.  
Adjunct Lecturer in Anthropology  
University of South Florida



Judge Leonie Brinkema  
U.S. District Court Judge  
Eastern District of Virginia  
Albert V. Bryan Courthouse  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, Virginia, 22314-5798

*Regarding Dr. Sami Al-Arian*

To the Honorable Leonie Brinkema,

I hope you are doing well. I am writing to you to urge you to grant Dr. Sami Al-Arian bail. I have been a family friend of the Al-Arians for almost eight years, having gone to college with Laila Al-Arian, and I wanted to briefly discuss what I know of Dr. Al-Arian and his family, as well as why granting him bail would be to the benefit of all parties.

Dr. Al-Arian is a man of supreme integrity. As Mr. Turley can attest to, Dr. Al-Arian was asked under a polygraph examination whether he had ever betrayed the trust of his family or even lied to his wife. He answered no and passed the test.

There is one central reason why Dr. Al-Arian would not even consider fleeing if let out on bail, and it is not because the American government would inevitably catch him; it is because he has devoted his whole life to promoting social justice for both Palestinians and Americans, and he knows that, if he were to attempt to flee, it would be construed as an admission of guilt which would destroy his credibility and which would in turn invalidate everything he has struggled for since coming to this country three decades ago. Despite all the suffering he has endured in the last five years, I know that, if he had the chance to go back in time and just be a regular, quiet citizen who didn't ruffle anyone's feathers, he would not change anything. Despite his profound love for his family, his commitment to the cause of justice is even greater.

Not having your father around would be difficult for any family, but for the Al-Arian children who hold up their father as a spiritual, professional, and political role model more than anyone else I know, the pain of his absence is particularly acute. I know that, right now, there is nothing more that they could possibly wish for than to be able to spend time with their father and be able to hug him, even if only for a short while.



Lastly, it would be in the interest of our government to allow Dr. Al-Arian bail. I have been living in Egypt for the last five years (I currently work as an Arabic/English translator), and am often asked "How are Muslims treated in America?" My response is invariably, "The vast majority live peacefully with just as many opportunities as other Americans. But there are certain individuals, such as Sami Al-Arian, who are targeted and persecuted by certain members of the government." Living abroad, I have learned to appreciate and love my country more than I ever have before, and it hurts me to have to say this. But as it stands now, the American government's treatment of Dr. Al-Arian only confirms what many people in the Muslim world think: that the American government does not afford the same rights and dignity to Muslims as it does to Jews or Christians. I honestly wish that, at the very least, I could say to people that, despite all the hardships the American government has subjected Dr. Al-Arian to, there was one judge named Leonie Brinkema who stood up for our ideals and let Dr. Al-Arian be with his family for a while and that, regardless of the faults of our judicial system, it is still much better than the judicial system in the Middle East.

In any case, thank you for taking the time to consider my letter.

Respectfully,

John Clifford Halliwell  
Cairo, Egypt

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John Clifford Halliwell", written in a cursive style.



Perla Issa

New York, NY, 10012

Perla.issa@gmail.com

July 8, 2008

The Honorable  
Judge Leonie Brinkema  
U.S. District Court Judge  
Albert V. Bryan Courthouse  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, Virginia, 22314-5798

Dear Judge Brinkema,  
I am writing concerning Dr. Sami Al-Arian's case.

I have not met Dr. Sami Al-Arian in person, but I have met his daughters and his wife and their strength and spirit have been an inspiration to me. I believe that their character is a reflection of Dr. Sami Al-Arian's character to whom I only have the highest respects.

I am not a lawyer but I have followed Dr. Sami AL-Arian's case in great detail trying to make sense out of it. Dr. Sami Al-Arian was found not guilty by a jury in Dec 2005 with two hang charges, a plea agreement was made where Dr. Al-Arian would leave the United States and yet two and a half years later he is still in prison.

Dr. Sami Al-Arian should be released on bond until his next trial. After spending five years in jail without a single guilty charge, him and his family deserve to be with each other.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours truly,  
Perla Issa





Southeastern Louisiana University  
Department of Sociology & Criminal Justice  
Hammond, LA 70402  
July 8, 2008

To The Honorable Judge Leonie Brinkema

Dear Judge Brinkema:

It is with great hope that I approach you this day on behalf of Dr. Sami Al-Arian.

I became aware of Dr. Al-Arian's situation when I began teaching at the University of South Florida shortly after his arrest. Quite frankly, I was horrified because, as an academic myself and a sociologist, the idea that scholars can be targeted for what they say in the United States of America gives me great pause. Nevertheless, it was several years before I met Dr. Al-Arian's wife and children and became more immediately conscious of how much *this gentle, intelligent man and his lovely family have suffered over the* fact that they are Palestinian and support those who remain in difficulty in the land of their ethnic heritage.

In spite of the dire conditions under which Dr. Al-Arian has been forced to live for more than five years now *and in spite of what must have been an emotional and psychological hell that would have brought most of us* to a breaking point, Dr. Al-Arian's letters to me have been kind and centered in a rationality I find almost incredible. I have never in the two years that I have been in personal contact with this man and his family ever been privy to a single bitter word from any of them. The graciousness with which these dear people have met their immense challenge at the hands of the government of their citizenship leaves me humbled. I cannot imagine how they have accomplished this.

My concern is not just for Dr. Al-Arian and his family, however, or even for all academics at this point in the developments of this case. My deep concerns now, under the circumstances, are for our nation. An expenditure of more than \$50 million has not launched a legal campaign resulting in this man's conviction. Yet he remains incarcerated. This causes me to wonder if any of us is safe.

Many questions rise for me as a result of what is happening to Dr. Al-Arian. If, in fact, as the jury found, this man – a U.S. citizen – *is guilty of nothing that should ever have incarcerated him in the first place*, then why is he still behind bars and what is to protect any of us from similar treatment? If a U.S. citizen can be incarcerated for five years – much of this in solitary confinement – without conviction, based on a verbal outburst and his love for those who suffer, then must we all hold the expression of our dearest concerns and most burning passions in check for fear of similar treatment? The U.S. Constitution that I trust with my life and the lives of my family members has seemed to be held of no account before the nations of the world throughout this terrifying process. So my heart is breaking for my country's people in this nation of my birth.

I know there must be tremendous pressure accompanying this case. I know it because I have followed its evolution and I see the misdirected anger that has been unleashed on this poor man and his family at every step along the way. Nevertheless, you as a Judge now have the opportunity to return this travesty to a more rational path. Please release Dr. Sami Al-Arian on bail that he might – finally – reunite with his family. Please let us and others see that the United States judicial system remains, in the end, an inviolable bastion of justice for all U.S. citizens, even during the most trying of times. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Hensley  
Instructor of Sociology  
Southeastern Louisiana University





Judge Leonie Brinkema  
U.S. District Court Judge  
Albert V. Bryan Courthouse  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, Virginia, 22314-5798

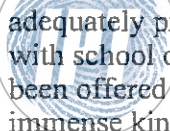
Dear Honorable Judge Brinkema:

I am writing on behalf of Sami Al-Arian, whose petition for bail is under your review. My friendship with Leena Al-Arian, Mr. Al-Arian's second eldest daughter, over the past year and a half has given me insight to the trial regarding her father. This profound friendship between Leena has given me the privilege and honor to meet her siblings, subsequently allowing me to attest to the family's strength, honor, and character as a whole. It is my wish that I can share my personal experiences with the Al-Arian family, hopefully displaying the immaculate qualities the family possesses, and hopefully persuade the court to grant Mr. Al-Arian bail.

At the time I had started to develop a friendship with Leena, Mr. Al-Arian was already in the midst of his incarceration. During our conversations, whether they consisted of every day chit-chat or resonated with great emotional force, Leena's voice, tone, and spirit were always plagued by the ubiquitous absence of her father in her and the Al-Arian's home. Leena, who is a strong advocate and proponent of justice, continued to preserve her will power through the plight of her father's case. However, the ongoing legal battle has accumulated to severely shaken my best friend's will power, leaving her sometimes estranged from the hope of justice in the American justice system.

I can recall many occasions where the absence of their father's presence has severely affected some of their most important events as a family. One important date to note is the wedding ceremony of his eldest son, Abdullah, which took place last summer, albeit with the conspicuous absence of Mr. Al-Arian. During the past five years, two of Mr. Al-Arian's daughters, Laila and Leena, have completed their undergraduate educations. Lastly, the two youngest of Mr. Al-Arian's children, A and L have lived without the presence of their father in their adolescent teenage upbringing, an imperative time in which an adolescent develops emotionally and psychologically. These are just a few events that have hurt the Al-Arian family in the past five years.

Leena would often explain more of her family's fragmented life to me, especially the psychological and emotional impact they had developed as a result of Mr. Al-Arian's situation. I listened as a friend, as a family member, as someone who believed in the American justice system, as a sympathizer, as a believer of civil rights, but most importantly, as a human being. I couldn't possibly fathom how one and one's family could endure so much and still continue to believe in hope and in God. After experiencing such a traumatic event in their lives, they have persistently continued to persevere through their father's court obstacles and ever their own personal obstacles. I can attest and say with absolute confidence, that I have never witnessed that type of family strength that the Al-Arians maintain. Each sibling has



adequately provided the necessary support to keep the family united, helping each other, whether it's with school or providing comfort for one another. This generous character of good intention has always been offered to the friends of the Al-Arians, including myself, as I have greatly benefited from their immense kindness.

I try reflect on these positive qualities (unselfishness, generosity, loving, to name a few) embodied within Abdullah, Laila, Leena, A[REDACTED], and L[REDACTED] and try to understand where they developed. Your Honor, as I conclude and write this letter to you, it becomes more clearer to me that these qualities are representative of their parent's own ideals. Mr. Sami and Mrs. Nahla Al-Arian have raised a family that many have been touched by.

Now that this case is pending before you for bail, I request your honor to grant Mr. Sami Al-Arian bail so that he and his family can be relieved of unnecessary and uncalled for hardship they have suffered.

Sincerely,

Shaun Mir

Shaun Mir

Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567



To the Honorable Judge Leonie Brinkema,

Your Honor, I understand that very soon you will be determining Dr. al-Arian's sentence for the charge of criminal contempt. I am writing you to ask for mercy and lenience, for his sake and for his family's sake. Dr. al-Arian's refusal to testify before a grand jury is understandable: his original plea bargain was made with a verbal promise from the federal prosecutors that he would not have to attend another trial or stand witness.

Please consider what this poor man and his family have suffered in the years since his initial arrest. The best they could have hoped for was that, after serving his jail sentence, which should have expired some time ago, he would be deported and he and his family would be forced to live abroad, far from home and friends—yet even that is denied to them thus far. I am friends with the al-Arian family and no testimonial could convey how good-hearted people they are.

Dr. al-Arian has gone on two hunger strikes in protest of his continued imprisonment and in protest of the request that he stand witness at yet another trial. These are not the actions of a criminal, rather they seem to me a wordless plea for humanity and clemency. I pray for a just decision and thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Loo

Redlands, CA 92373



To the Honorable Leonie Brinkema,

I hope you are doing well. I am writing to you to urge you to grant Dr. Sami Al-Arian bail. I have been a family friend of the Al-Arians for almost eight years, having gone to college with Laila Al-Arian, and I wanted to briefly discuss what I know of Dr. Al-Arian and his family, as well as why granting him bail would be to the benefit of all parties.

Dr. Al-Arian is a man of supreme integrity. As Mr. Turley can attest to, Dr. Al-Arian was asked under a polygraph examination whether he had ever betrayed the trust of his family or even lied to his wife. He answered no and passed the test.

There is one central reason why Dr. Al-Arian would not even consider fleeing if let out on bail, and it is not because the American government would inevitably catch him; it is because he has devoted his whole life to promoting social justice for both Palestinians and Americans, and he knows that, if he were to attempt to flee, it would be construed as an admission of guilt which would destroy his credibility and which would in turn invalidate everything he has struggled for since coming to this country three decades ago. Despite all the suffering he has endured in the last five years, I know that, if he had the chance to go back in time and just be a regular, quiet citizen who didn't ruffle anyone's feathers, he would not change anything. Despite his profound love for his family, his commitment to the cause of justice is even greater.

Not having your father around would be difficult for any family, but for the Al-Arian children who hold up their father as a spiritual, professional, and political role model more than anyone else I know, the pain of his absence is particularly acute. I know that, right now, there is nothing more that they could possibly wish for than to be able to spend time with their father and be able to hug him, even if only for a short while.

Lastly, it would be in the interest of our government to allow Dr. Al-Arian bail. I have been living in Egypt for the last five years (I currently work as an Arabic/English translator), and am often asked "How are Muslims treated in America?" My response is invariably, "The vast majority live peacefully with just as many opportunities as other Americans. But there are certain individuals, such as Sami Al-Arian, who are targeted and persecuted by certain members of the government." Living abroad, I have learned to appreciate and love my country more than I ever have before, and it hurts me to have to



say this. But as it stands now, the American government's treatment of Dr. Al-Arian only confirms what many people in the Muslim world think: that the American government does not afford the same rights and dignity to Muslims as it does to Jews or Christians. I honestly wish that, at the very least, I could say to people that, despite all the hardships the American government has subjected Dr. Al-Arian to, there was one judge named Leonie Brinkema who stood up for our ideals and let Dr. Al-Arian be with his family for a while and that, regardless of the faults of our judicial system, it is still much better than the judicial system in the Middle East.

In any case, thank you for taking the time to consider my letter.

Respectfully,

John Clifford Halliwell

Cairo, Egypt



Judge Leonie Brinkema  
U.S. District Court Judge  
Eastern District of Virginia  
Albert V. Bryan Courthouse  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, Virginia, 22314-5798

Dear Judge Brinkema,

Dr. Sami Al-Arian has served his community faithfully and persistently for years, and should not be penalized for having the courage to speak out his beliefs. As a distinguished professor at University of South Florida, he was an integral part of the educational process; as a civic leader, he worked tirelessly to promote justice and equality among all of Tampa's residents. As an educator, he founded a respected school that continues to thrive, even in his absence, turning out students who are academically capable, morally responsible, and community-oriented. As a loving family man, he infused his children with a love of justice and a respect for others that persists today, in spite of all of the horrors that they have personally endured. Wherever Dr. Al-Arian went, he was a bridge-builder, seeking to find a common ground where people of all faiths and backgrounds could work together for the good of the community.

Although a jury of his peers failed to convict him on even one of many charges, he has served more than five years in prison, often under extremely harsh conditions. And although he was allowed to enter a plea agreement with the understanding that he would not be required to appear before a federal grand jury, our government has since asked him to do just that.

I implore you, Your Honor -- in the name of all that is good about this country -- to finally allow justice to prevail in Dr. Al-Arian's case. Our government should never be in the business of incarcerating political prisoners. Please stand up courageously on the side of fairness, justice, and true democracy to release Dr. Al-Arian, allowing him to return to the family that loves him.

Sincerely,

Marya Bangee

Corona, CA 92880



TO: Judge Leonie Brinkema  
U.S. District Court Judge  
Albert V. Bryan Courthouse  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, Virginia, 22314-5798

RE: Bail Hearing for Dr. Sami Al-Arian

Dear Judge Brinkema,

I am writing in advance of Dr. Sami Al-Arian's bail hearing to request, on behalf of his friends, family and supporters around the world, that Dr. Al-Arian be released on bond so that he may finally return to his family.

As you must know, Dr. Al-Arian has already gone to trial and been acquitted -- in fact he should have been released two and a half years ago. I am convinced that the recent charges brought against him are a clear attempt to further persecute him for his political speech and activism. Prosecutors' vitriolic and personal statements about Dr. Al-Arian in the past only serve to further this conviction.

A political prisoner and a man of conscience, Dr. Al-Arian has borne his five years in prison -- much of it in solitary confinement and suffering under conditions more extreme than are used against the most violent criminals -- with a grace and dignity that serves as a true testament to his character.

Further testament can be found in Dr. Al-Arian's family, who are among the kindest, most intelligent, good-hearted people I have had the pleasure to meet. It is their resolve in the face of inhuman hardship that has inspired thousands of activists, artists and people of conscience around the world to rally to their cause.

7/8/2008



On behalf of the Al-Arian family, I appeal to your sense of justice and humanity: please, your honor, release Dr. Al-Arian and allow the family to finally be reunited.

With Hope,

Nizar Wattad

Filmmaker

Los Angeles, CA





July 7, 2008

Judge Leonie Brinkema

U.S. District Court Judge

Albert V. Bryan Courthouse

401 Courthouse Square

Alexandria, Virginia, 22314-5798

To the Honorable Judge Leonie Brinkema,

My name is Aliyah O'Keeffe, and I am a graduate student at the University of California- Los Angeles. I'm writing to you today on behalf of Dr. Sami A. Al-Arian. I have known Dr. Al-Arian and his family since 1993, and can personally attest to his great character as an educator, academic, community leader and family man. My family and I moved to Tampa, Florida in 1999, when I was just 14 years old, in order for me to attend a private school started by Dr. Al-Arian. It was then that I became good friends with Dr. Al-Arian's second eldest daughter, Leena Al-Arian and had the privilege of taking a class with Dr. Al-Arian. The course was a look at Islamic studies, and it was much unlike others I had taken previously, as the focus was more on Islam in the context of modern Western society and Islam's relationship and similarities to other faiths. Dr. Al-Arian is in many ways, a forward thinker, and always placed heavy emphasis on student understanding of Islam's context and contribution to Western society, of being active participants in Western governments and social systems and being upright and moral citizens contributing to society through charitable institutions and political activism for worthy causes, both foreign and domestic.

Additionally, I attended many community events lead by Dr. Al-Arian for civil liberties, and always found him to be an outspoken community leader and an inspiration to his community. He was a firm advocate of bringing about positive change in society working through the system, and I have never in my 15 years of knowing him and his family ever heard anything from their mouths to the contrary. As friends with Dr. Al-Arian's middle child, Leena, I have spent countless nights in the Al-Arian's gracious home throughout high school and college, and if there were any hidden agendas or hidden lifestyles, I'd know about them.

In my early college career, I attended USF, where Dr. Al-Arian was a professor, and served as an advisor to the Muslim Student Association on campus, of which I was an officer. I remember the tremendous loss that we felt losing our advisor, the only tenured Muslim professor at USF, who served as a beacon for intellectual activism for students often feeling disadvantaged in a post-9/11 society. Never in my 15 years of knowing Dr. Al-Arian and his family have I ever had any feeling or suspicion that they had any links to terrorism or illegal or illicit behavior.

On the contrary, on a personal level, I found the Al-Arians to be one of the most warm, hospitable, humorous, intelligent and strong families I have ever known. If there were ever a family that,



prior to Dr. Al-Arian's imprisonment, embodied the "American dream," it was the Al-Arians. Dr. Al-Arian came from a refugee background, and taught his children the value of hard work, determination, and civic duty. The academic track records and work histories of his eldest children are testament to that spirit.

For the near decade that I knew the Al-Arians with their father, and the grueling five and a half years that they have spent separated from him, constantly living on the edge of their seat, praying and hoping for a chance to be with him again, I have seen a transformation in them. Dr. Al-Arian's wife, Nahla, is a woman of tremendous strength with faith in the American Justice system, but with all of the trials, unjust treatment and persecution of her husband, and the burden of raising her youngest children without their father, she can only hold onto hope for so long. Separation from their father who was not found guilty on a single charge after a decade of monitoring, millions of tax dollars, and six months of trial, has been an impossible ordeal for his children. The ongoing imprisonment and persecution of Dr. Al-Arian has resulted in serious clinically diagnosable mental health ailments for members of his family. His youngest children suffered tremendously with the absence of their father, and the elder children have been on a nonstop roller coaster ride around the country, monitoring the situation and working to improve his conditions and channel support for him.

Mental anguish affects all of them knowing that their father is alive and suffering and yet they remain powerless; knowing that he is a phone call away that they cannot make; that his embrace is on the other side of a layer of glass; and most of all, that he was never convicted of a crime and that he is innocent. As they face the possibility of maximum sentencing for the indictments of contempt of court levied against him, having already lived through the reality that he was supposed to be released, now over two years ago, a chance to be reunited with their father is the least restitution that could be made to them by the American justice system. His family has endured this ordeal for far too long, and suffered unjustly at the hands of prosecutors bent on vengeance and political aims. He is, absolutely, in no way, a threat to national security or a flight risk. Judge Brinkema, I implore you, please release Dr. Al-Arian on bond to ease the suffering of his family.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me for any additional information.

Sincerely,

Aliyah O'Keeffe

Los Angeles, CA 90066



Line Halvorsen

10121 Torino, Italy

Judge Leoni Brinkema  
US District Court Judge  
Eastern District of Virginia  
Albert V. Bryan Courthouse  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, Virginia, 22314-5798  
USA

Turin, July 6th 2008

To the Honorable Leonie Brinkema

My name is Line Halvorsen, I am a Norwegian documentary filmmaker and the director of the film "USA vs Al-Arian". I have been following the case of Dr. Al-Arian for the past three and a half years now. Like you, Your Honor, I aim to investigate reality and study the facts. I entered this film project from a critical point of view and without any personal agenda. Through the making of the film, I developed a close relationship to the Al-Arian's family and I have met with Sami Al-Arian many times.

I know Sami Al-Arian as a respectable and honest man of principle. I am deeply impressed by the strenght, courage and unity I witnessed in the Al-Arian family. Sami Al-Arian is a loving and committed father who has always contributed in being a great inspiration, comfort and support to those around him. All of his children are exemplary young US citizens, and their father has always encouraged and helped them – also from the prison cell. Abdullah is doing his Ph.D at Georgetown, Laila is a freelance journalist and author graduated at Columbia School of Journalism, Leena is doing her M.A. at University of Chicago, A will start his first year at University of Chicago this fall and L is in junior high school.

During the trial, Your Honor, I started suspecting that the case against Dr. Al-Arian was not a terrorism case like the Government claimed – but rather a First Amendment case where a man was persecuted for his views rather than his actions. Apparently the jury also felt the same (I have interviewed several of them afterwards) since they could not find him guilty on a single count. Dr. Al-Arian and his family believed the Government's promise that signing a plea agreement would result in his release. They also believed the Government when they removed the cooperation clause saying he would not be required to appear before a federal grand jury. 5 1/2 years of separation and harsh prison conditions have resulted in great pain and suffering for the family, and I hope that they will have a chance to be together now that Sami Al-Arian has served his sentence.

Through my documentary, millions of people worldwide have followed the case of Dr. Al-Arian and many will be watching the continuation of this story with great interest. I urge you in the name of fairness and justice, Your Honor, to please allow dr. Al-Arian to be with his family while waiting for his trial.

Sincerely,

Line Halvorsen

Director, "USA vs Al-Arian" - [www.usavsalarian.com](http://www.usavsalarian.com)



Dear Judge Brinkema,

I attended the trial of Dr. Sami Al-Arian in Tampa, Florida. I knew he was innocent and hoped that a jury would see the total lack of evidence against him. During the trial Judge Moody granted every motion entered by the prosecution, allowing evidence to be entered that even the prosecution admitted could not be directly linked to Dr. Al-Arian. Despite this the Jury did not find him guilty on any of the charges, *acquitting him of all the major counts and hung 10 to 2 in favor of acquittal on the remaining minor charges.*

Dr. Al-Arian, considering the facts that a new trial could keep him in prison for another year and even if he were to be acquitted he would have to fight deportation keeping him incarcerated for perhaps many more years, decided to accept a plea of guilty to one of the remaining minor charges. This was done mainly out of concern for his family who had been without the presence of their father for three years.

*It is now two years later and for all this time, now five years, he has remained in prison separated from his family. Even though the cooperation clause was deliberately omitted from the plea agreement, Dr. Al-Arian has been repeatedly called before Grand Jurys, thus delaying his return to his family.*

I have known the Al-Arian family for many years. I have personally witnessed the effects his incarceration has had on him and his family. I would not wish the harsh treatment Dr. Al-Arian has had to endure while incarcerated on anyone, and yet he has been treated as if he were a participant in world terrorism. *This is totally rejected by anyone who knows him, and was rejected by the Jury.*

I implore you to let this honorable man rejoin his family while he is waiting for yet another trial. I can see no purpose for keeping him in prison, he is not a danger to anyone. The only danger he seems to possess is to the pride of a Federal Prosecutor. For the Jury that could find no guilt in his actions, and for those of us who know Dr. Al-Arian, we hope that you will find a way to let this man obtain the justice that has been denied him.

Sincerely,

James F. Bryant

Lutz, FL 33549



Judge Leonie Brinkema  
U.S. District Court Judge  
Albert V. Bryan Courthouse  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, Virginia, 22314-5798

Dear Judge Leonie Brinkema,

I have known Dr. Sami Al-Arian his wife Nahla and four of their five children for more than 10 years, since the mid 1990's. I first met Sami and Nahla when I was the Pastor of First United Church of Tampa and President of the Hillsborough (Interfaith) Clergy Association. Their mosque and my congregation were members of Hillsborough Organization for Progress and Equality (H.O.P.E.). Together we worked successfully to improve our community and the educational opportunities of all the children of Hillsborough County.

My personal experience of Sami is a man of intelligence, a heart of caring, a soul of faith. Whether in personal conversation, working on committees together, providing service to the needy together, providing hospitality, or speaking at community events my continuing experience of Sami was one of positive regard.

During his five year ordeal, the government, which has admitted he is not violent, has subjected him to inhumane incarceration, the majority of the time in solitary confinement. Without a conviction, the government has taken his profession, his livelihood, his direct participation as a loving parent and husband, and made his whole family, all of whom are American citizens, to suffer.

The government has not kept their part of the bargain of the plea agreement or he would have been restored to his family and deported. I hope and pray that with your knowledge and authority you can rectify this injustice.

Sincerely,

Rev. Marcia C. Free

Rev. Marcia C. Free

Knoxville, TN 379231

7/8/2008



Judge Leonie Brinkema  
U.S. District Court Judge  
Albert V. Bryan Courthouse  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, Virginia, 22314-5798

Dear Judge Brinkema,

I am writing to request that Dr. Sami Al-Arian be released on bond until his August trial date. Over the past years, Dr. Al-Arian was subject to various levels of difficulty with his imprisonment, to which he was later acquitted. Dr. Al-Arian is a man of integrity and loyalty, not a "terrorist" as the prosecuting team has been leading everyone to believe.

As an American, I find it very difficult to comprehend how a man who was acquitted of the crimes he was alleged to have been involved in can still be forced to stay in prison. I find it very disturbing the legal system has in a way failed to protect him, leaving open holes that allow the prosecution team to pursue criminal contempt charges.

Dr. Al-Arian needs to be with his family, and in the end needs to be free. I hope that you will deeply consider releasing Dr. Al-Arian on bail to allow him some time with his family to gain strength from this draining ordeal.

Sincerely,

Jehan Moghazy



Judge Leonie Brinkema  
U.S. District Court Judge  
Albert V. Bryan Courthouse  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, Virginia, 22314-5798

Dear Judge Brinkema,

I am writing you to show my support for Dr. Sami Al-Arian and to respectfully request that you release him on bond. To date, Dr. Al-Arian has been imprisoned for more than five years, and continues to be imprisoned despite the fact that he was acquitted on most of the charges against him, and deliberately in spite of the plea agreement stipulated by both parties. I had the fortunate opportunity to hear Dr. Al-Arian speak during my undergraduate studies at the University of Florida, where he addressed a packed audience and was very respectful and approachable to all. His acquittal in late 2005 strengthened my faith in the American justice system and strengthened my resolve to pursue a law degree. I am now approaching my final year of law school at George Mason University, and I am dismayed and appalled at the turn of events following Dr. Al-Arian's acquittal. I still have faith, however, in our system and in the capacity of our Judges to rule fairly and justly.

On August 13th, Dr. Al-Arian faces the possibility of serving a life sentence if convicted of criminal contempt. Thus, when making your judgment, I respectfully request that you please consider the fact that Dr. Al-Arian has proven innocent throughout this long process and has proven that he is not a threat. I also ask that you take into consideration the extreme prison conditions he has been put through throughout his imprisonment and what this has done to him and his family. Dr. Al-Arian has been denied a life with his family for over five years, and now faces a lifetime without them due to the actions of bigoted prosecutors who will not honor the plea agreement. Please release Dr. Al-Arian on bond for the short remaining time he has before his set trial date.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Rifk Ebeid  
Arlington, VA



Dear Judge Leonie Brinkema:

I am writing on behalf of Dr. Sami Al-Arian and his request to be eligible for release on bail.

I have known his family for over five years and believe him to be a man who will abide by the conditions of bail.

Dr. Al-Arian has very strong ties to his family and friends in the United States. He has every reason to continue to maintain his good standing with the court and to my knowledge has only shown respect for the court's proceedings even when he has disagreed.

I respectfully urge you to allow bail for him since he has young children who have not had contact visits with him for years as well as young adult children and a wife who have suffered without his physical presence in their lives.

Sincerely,

Dennis Neyman, Ph. D.  
past president of the Board and  
co-chair Social Justice Committee  
Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church  
Louisville, Kentucky

*Dennis Neyman, Ph.D.*

**"I object to violence because when it appears to do good, the good is only temporary;  
the evil it does is permanent."**

Nonviolence is the greatest force at the disposal of humankind.

It is mightier than the mightiest weapon of destruction devised by the ingenuity of man.

- Mohandas K. Gandhi





July 7, 2008

Judge Leonie Brinkema  
U.S. District Court Judge  
Albert V. Bryan Courthouse  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, Virginia, 22314-5798

Dear Judge Brinkema:

I am writing to you on behalf of Dr. Sami Al-Arian, over whose bail hearing you will preside on Thursday, July 10. I urge you to release Dr. Al-Arian on bond until his trial on August 13. Dr. Al-Arian has been held in jail for the past five years under extremely harsh conditions, and it is particularly frustrating that he still there stays in spite of the fact that he should have been released two and a half years ago.

As does much of the world, I know Dr. Al-Arian to be a decent, hard-working man who stands up for his beliefs. On a more personal level, I also know him to be a kind and caring father and husband who desperately misses his family. They have been living a nightmare for years now, and their simple request is that he be released on bond so that they can finally be reunited with him. I implore you to grant this American family's request and order his release.

Sincerely,

Rabya Chaudhry

7/8/2008



Dear Honorable Judge Leonie Brinkema,

I cannot say I know Dr. Sami personally, but his daughter is very good friends with my Sister. As a result of this relationship I have been kept informed of Dr. Al-Arian's situation. I am writing you in order to request a fair bail be set for Dr. Al-Arian. He and his family have suffered through a great ordeal these past few years and it is of my belief, and of many others, that this ordeal should finally be put to an end. I will respect your decision in this matter but hope you see it fit that a fair bail be set for this man so that he and his family may be offered a little relief.

Regards,

Tariq Hanif  
Office of the DBSAE  
Business Transformation Agency  
Department of Defense

7/8/2008



Judge Leonie Brinkema  
U.S. District Court Judge  
Eastern District of Virginia  
Albert V. Bryan Courthouse  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, Virginia, 22314-5798

Dear Judge Brinkema,

I'm writing to express my concern for Sami Al-Arian and to ask that you grant him bail. His daughter Leena and I were classmates at the University of Chicago and through her I met her mother and siblings. They are a wonderful family and the damage that has been done by Sami's imprisonment is very apparent. The younger children have spent the last five years without their father and have been moved from place to place inside the US and in Egypt, always on the anticipation that he will be released soon, and the older children are depressed and exhausted from trying to help their mother keep things together. Please consider how much it would mean to all of them to be united with their father, at least for a little while. They have been waiting and hoping for five years, and time and time again their hopes have been dashed. Nobody who has been acquitted of all charges deserves to be locked up and have his life and the lives of his family destroyed over a political stance. Please do the right thing and let him go.

Sincerely,

Cameron Cross

Evergreen, CO 80437



Madison, Wisconsin 53719

July 6, 2008

Judge Leonie Brinkema  
U.S. District Court Judge  
Albert V. Bryan Courthouse  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, Virginia, 22314-5798

Dear Judge Leonie Brinkema:

I am writing you to urge you to release Dr. Sami Al Arian on bond until his trial begins.

Dr. Al-Arian has never been shown to be violent or a flight risk. Indeed, Dr. Al Arian has continuously proven himself to be a devoted family man and pillar of his community. He founded a full-time K-12 school so that his five children, the children he desperately hopes to be re-united with, could have a solid moral and academic education. He has served as the Imam of the mosque he founded, providing religious guidance to Tampa's Muslim community and as resource for interfaith dialogue. He has been politically active, organizing fund voter registration drives and supporting candidates for public active. These are not the acts of a hardened criminal, but of a generous and caring individual.

If testimony of his moral character is not sufficiently persuasive, the prosecution's own charges should be. Dr. Al-Arian is not charged with a violent offense; indeed, all evidence shows that he is a mild-mannered academic. The federal government has monitored his telephone and computer usage for at least the past decade and has never uncovered anything to suggest that his freedom would cause any harm to the judicial process.

Based upon Dr. Al-Arian's character and the lack of risk involved, I implore you release him on bond until his trial.

Sincerely,

Sarah Anjum



Judge Leonie Brinkema  
U.S. District Court Judge  
Albert V. Bryan Courthouse  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, Virginia, 22314-5798

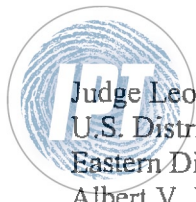
Dear Judge Brinkema:

I'm writing to ask that you grant Dr. Sami Al-Arian jail while he awaits trial. Dr. Al-Arian and I served on a local Tampa pastor's committee for an organization working on issues of justice. I found him to be a kind and gentle man. He was always very generous with his time. And he had a great concern for justice for the poor and needy of our community. It would seem that now he is among those in need of justice. I pray that you grant him a fair hearing.

Yours in Faith,

Rev. Dr. Earl J. Smith  
Pastor, St. John Presbyterian Church  
Tampa, FL

7/8/2008



Judge Leonie Brinkema  
U.S. District Court Judge  
Eastern District of Virginia  
Albert V. Bryan Courthouse  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, Virginia, 22314-5798

July 6, 2008

To the Honorable Leonie Brinkema:

I am writing to request the release of Dr. Sami Al Arian on bond until his trial on August 13<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Al Arian has already spent more than five years in prison under very harsh conditions simply for practicing his first amendment. He has a wife and five children who have been split apart and worn down physically, emotionally and financially by the prosecutors' relentless attempts to charge him with terrorism. Aiding the prosecutors' are the prison wardens who treated Dr. Al Arian to solitary confinement to almost 24hrs a day, took away his blanket, glasses, and withheld food and medical care from him even though he is a diabetic. This physical and psychological torture is enough to wear any human being down. It is crucial that Dr. Al Arian be given a fair opportunity to recover from this prolonged torment and be physically, and mentally fit to face another trial.

Dr. Al Arian is a just man, a good father, and above all a loyal American. I had the honor of hearing Dr. Al Arian at Georgetown University where both his daughter and I received our undergraduate education. Dr. Al Arian spoke about the importance of working through our American legal system to solve the injustices in our society. He emphasized the importance of an imperfect system that strives to better itself through its citizens. He said it was therefore our responsibility as Americans to speak up when a wrong was being committed. Otherwise, our hard earned freedom of speech would be slowly limited one way or another by the powerful few. His faith in our legal system and principles of justice speak for his character and integrity as a human being.

It is a rather sad irony that the very man who believes so strongly in the American Justice System and motivated younger generations like mine to become more aware of our legal system is now being persecuted by it. Dr. Al Arian was first imprisoned under the Patriot Act during my junior year of college when I was dorming with his daughter, Laila Al Arian. I have since been following his case in the hopes that our system can protect the freedom of one man who chose to speak up at a time when blind patriotism was the accepted norm. I urgently beseech you to release Dr. Al Arian for the short time period prior to his trial to allow him an opportunity to reunite with his family and prepare for the next trial in a fair and just manner.

I am currently an MD/PhD student at Stony Brook University Medical Center in Stony Brook NY.

Sincerely  
Noreen Bukhari  
MD/PhD  
Tsirka Lab, Dept of Pharmacology  
Stony Brook University Medical Center  
Stony Brook, NY 11790



Judge Leonie Brinkema  
U.S. District Court Judge  
Eastern District of Virginia  
Albert V. Bryan Courthouse  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, Virginia, 22314-5798

To the Honorable Leonie Brinkema,

I am a documentary filmmaker, living in New York City. Over the past seven years, I have had the honor of knowing members of the Al-Arian family. From my personal experiences, the Al-Arians demonstrate what's right about America. As you read my recollections below, I strongly hope you will consider granting Dr. Sami Al-Arian bail and the opportunity to see his family.

I first met Dr. Sami Al-Arian in the summer of 2001. I had been sent by my father to work as an intern with the Muslim Public Affairs Council in Washington, D.C. As a first generation American Muslim still in the throes of teenage rebellion and angst, I was not optimistic about working within the political realm. From my negative experiences growing up in the Midwest, I thought being part of American civic society would always seem like a distant possibility. Or if it were a possibility, it would come at the cost of compromising my identity.

Through my work that summer, I met many prominent activists, including Dr. Al-Arian. At a conference, Dr. Al-Arian gave a presentation on his work challenging the government's use of secret evidence. Dr. Al-Arian articulated an exciting vision for civic engagement that resonated with me. At a time of increasing paranoia, he pursued justice for the overlooked, the conveniently forgotten. Furthermore, I was inspired that through his grassroots efforts, he was affecting real change. The possibility of civic engagement in America started to become a viable reality for me. I knew then that people like Dr. Al-Arian, those who ensure that justice is served even when it is difficult and unpopular, were the ones who truly understood the importance of democracy. His example renewed my confidence in America, reminding me how powerful our freedom of speech is. Without it, there would be no voice for the weak, the oppressed, the disadvantaged.

The inspiration I got from Dr. Al-Arian prepared me for the rough road ahead. That same summer, our office organized a meeting with the White House Office of Faith-Based Initiatives. Abdullah Al-Arian, Dr. Al-Arian's eldest son, was an intern in Rep. David Bonior's office that summer and was also attending the meeting. Without explanation, he was asked to leave by the Secret Service. Realizing that Abdullah had been profiled because of his last name, all of the participating organizations decided to walk out of the meeting in protest. We stood in solidarity with the Al-Arians and the important work they have done for our country. This case of profiling was a slap in the face, a literal denial of having our seat at the table. It seemed Abdullah had to learn the hard truths his father dealt with daily. But despite the persecution and harassment, the Al-Arians did not give up. I was empowered by their example. They knew that we must hold our nation up to its own high standards to ensure that freedom and justice are available to all.



A couple years later, I befriended Laila Al-Arian, Dr. Al-Arian's eldest daughter, at Georgetown University where we were classmates. With the advent of America's invasion of Iraq that year, our campus was buzzing with political activity. Laila emerged early as a leader, directing many of us in organizing protests, teach-ins, and debates. She spearheaded the creation of a Human Rights Week and earned a place on our campus newspaper's editorial board. In many ways, Laila was a role model to me. She was a source of great optimism and strength, and she had an admirable work ethic and innate leadership qualities. I could see that she inherited much of it from her father.

After a few months, there was an abrupt change in our friendship. Dr. Al-Arian was arrested. Laila got right back to work, this time organizing events around her father's case and civil rights issues. I got involved, but I knew that in the post 9-11 world paranoia, finding support for the cause would be difficult. And indeed it has been for the Al-Arian family. A few years on from her father's arrest, Laila seems to have aged. I recently saw her in New York for her book release, and although she is still a tireless champion for human rights, the past few years seem to have worn her down. It is always sad to see the glow of youthful hope snuffed out, but in this case it is a tragedy because I know how much more she, and the rest of the family, could achieve. Her mother and youngest siblings had to leave the country, because the attention given to their father's case couldn't allow for their normal development. It seems that this case has condemned them to continue their refugee legacy.

It is an irony of the saddest kind that Dr. Al-Arian now languishes in prison, like all those he fought to protect from injustice. He was one of the people who inspired in me a love for this country. If we allow our justice system to fail in this case, we will not simply be failing the Al-Arians. We will have failed the promise of America, already very tenuous, in the minds of disenfranchised youth. I know, because I was one of them.

If Dr. Al-Arian has to be brought before trial again, our justice system demands that he at least be given bail. A change of presidents alone will not heal the wounds caused by our nation's last administration. The Bush administration wanted to make its case against Dr. Al-Arian a major triumph in its War on Terror. It has amounted only to further fear-mongering and scapegoating, and it has left a family that was the image of the American dream broken. I hope that you will grant Dr. Sami Al-Arian bail and the opportunity to see his family, so that they can have some semblance of their once normal lives and the rest of us can have greater hope for our country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Musa Syeed', is written below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Musa Syeed

New York, NY 10027





**Judge Leonie Brinkema**  
**U.S. District Court Judge**  
**Eastern District of Virginia**  
**Albert V. Bryan Courthouse**  
**401 Courthouse Square**  
**Alexandria, Virginia, 22314-5798**

To the Honorable Leonie Brinkema,

I am writing this letter in support of and to provide testimony to Dr. Al-Arian's character. My name is Assad Shah, and a graduate of Georgetown University, School of Foreign Service, 2002. I currently work in London, England, as a Senior Manager with the Royal Bank of Scotland, and am speaking on behalf of Dr. Al-Arian and his family having been a neighbour and friend of Laila Al-Arian, his daughter.

In the 2 years of knowing Laila and her father, who would visit from time to time during the school year, I can say that at no point did I ever question the sincerity and kindness shown by the family to both Muslims and non-Muslims alike. A fond memory of mine is how the family would come together and offer meals to the Muslim community of Georgetown, and how often students from different faiths would join in the celebrations without ever being out of place. I remember Dr. Sami offering a kind handshake and plate of food to the non Muslim friends of mine that I would bring to our gatherings, and how in the truest sense, I looked at the Al-Arian family as an example of wonderful human beings who should serve as an example of character to all.

I understand that being Muslim is not simply about showing kindness and consideration to others, but in this day and age, it is also about speaking out against the highly publicised acts of violence and aggression that is often carried out in the "name of Islam." As a strong advocate of the peace movement here in the UK myself, I must say that what has hurt us as a community in recent years in equal proportion is both the lack of understanding of others, and the thoughtless random acts of aggression shown by Muslims themselves. I believe that hatred breeds hatred, and violence attracts violence, and in no way do I condone the use of force in response to oppression, since it only invites a deepening of the problem.

In this regard, I clearly recall conversations with the Dr. and his daughter Laila along these lines; at no point in my relationship with them did I ever feel that either believed otherwise. I recall distinct discussions with Laila in particular who voiced such a similar view: that the modern concept of "terrorism" has done nothing to advance the true voice of "Islam" in today's world, a term which literally translates into "peace." This is not an Islamic concept commonly publicised in the media today, for the very fact that it does not conform to stereotypes that many wish to perpetuate. Nevertheless, I can vouch that Dr. Al-Arian was never less than an advocate for peace in my 2 years of contact with the family, and am willing to stake my personal reputation on the line for this. The fact that the good doctor is now being accused of supporting those who detract from the progress of Islam deeply upsets me, as my experience with him and his family has directly been a cause and inspiration for me to openly oppose such actions to begin with.

I trust that this letter of support should be given a fair consideration in Dr. Al-Arian's ruling, and that the reality of Dr. Sami's innocence be recognised and upheld.

Sincerely,  
Assad Shah  
Senior Manager, Decision Support  
The Royal Bank of Scotland, UK



THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

125 SAUNDERS HALL  
CAMPUS BOX 3225  
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-3225

T 919.962.5666  
F 919.962.1567

July 5, 2008

Judge Leonie Brinkema  
U.S. District Court Judge  
Eastern District of Virginia  
Albert V. Bryan Courthouse  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, Virginia, 22314-5798

To the Honorable Leonie Brinkema:

I write to beseech you to give every consideration to allowing bail for Dr. Sami al-Arian, in order to reunite him with his family after years of agonizing separation. I write both as someone that has known the al-Arian family for a decade, and also as one of the leading scholars of Islamic studies in this country. I am a Professor of Islamic Studies at the University of North Carolina, and I lead the Study of Islam Section at the American Academy of Religion, the largest international organization devoted to the academic study of religion (with over 12,000 members).

I have been fortunate to know the Al-Arian family for a number of years, especially their son Abdullah, who was a classmate of mine at Duke University. This is a family that has participated in and contributed to the American society at the highest level, including being educated at Duke University, Georgetown, University of Chicago, and Columbia University. They have been exemplary student leaders at each institution, setting the highest example for academic success, civic engagement, and leadership. The family has deep roots in multiple American institutions, and they are committed to staying in this country for the long haul.

One of my own areas of academic specialization is studying trends in the American Muslim community. The case involving Dr. Al-Arian is being watched extremely closely by the six million plus members of the American Muslim community. To put it as simply and directly as possible, it is seen as a test case of fairness of the American legal system in this sensitive post-9/11 age. The anguish of the Al-Arians, in particular their inability to have seen their beloved husband and father, has



become a national symbol of the anxieties, frustrations, and pain of many American Muslims. Your action to reunite this family would not only alleviate the suffering of one family, it would be taken as a profoundly meaningful gesture for this beleaguered community whose cooperation with the American government is more urgently needed now than ever.

The years of imprisonment and lengthy trials have been devastating for the Al-Arian family. Time and again, they have dared to dream that their husband and father would be released, only to have those hopes shattered. As a friend of the court, as a scholar of Islam, and a concerned citizen I implore you to set bail in order to facilitate the release of Dr. Al-Arian to his family. I know how seriously the Al-Arian family takes their position vis-à-vis the American Muslim community, and I am convinced to the core of my being that Dr. Al-Arian and his family would treat that bail with the utmost of legal and moral rectitude and responsibility.

I would be delighted to be contacted to provide any more information that I can about this outstanding family.

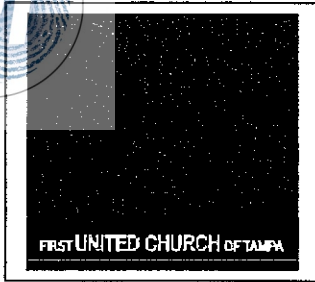
Respectfully yours,

Omid-Safi

Omid Safi

Professor of Islamic Studies  
Department of Religious Studies  
Saunders Hall  
University of North Carolina  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599

Chair for the Study of Islam Section  
American Academy of Religion



***First United Church (UCC) of Tampa***

***www.ucctampabay.org***

***7308 E. Fowler Ave. Tampa, Florida 33617***

***Ph: (813) 988-4321 e-mail firstunitedmail@yahoo.com***

***Dr. Warren Clark, Pastor***

***A "Peace With Justice", "Open and Affirming", and an  
"Earth Charter" United Church of Christ founded in 1885***

July 4, 2008

Judge Leonie Brinkema  
U.S. District Court Judge  
Eastern District of Virginia  
Albert V. Bryan Courthouse  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, Virginia, 22314-5798

Dear Judge Brinkema,

I visited Dr. Sami AlArian almost every week for the fifteen months he was held at the county jail before, during and after his jury trial here in Tampa. Before his arrest, I had known him as a clergy colleague, and was impressed by the way he led his mosque to join with Christian churches as we addressed health care, homelessness, and the need for additional public transportation. These were not "Muslim" issues, but the needs of our community as a whole.

When the huge indictment was announced nationally by Attorney General Ashcroft, I was not sure about the truth of those accusations, nor was I sure about Sami AlArian. But, over time I got to know his five children and Nahla, his wife. There is a saying, "by their fruit you shall know them". His children practice an American patriotism that goes far beyond waving a flag. The three oldest are engaged in various ways that call on us as a people to live out our nation's core values of liberty and justice for all. These are children who are loving and socially conscious.

By visiting with Sami AlArian for such a long time, I came to know him pretty well. We prayed together, swapped jokes together, and I listened to him. I heard his deeply held conviction that the core values of this country are truly good. I was there as he celebrated the way our jury system worked when he was found not guilty on all violence related charges, and that the jury overwhelmingly (10 to 2) voted not guilty on all the rest of the charges (except one minor charge on filling out a line on a visa and on this they voted 7 to 5 not guilty). What an affirmation that was for his faith in the American justice system!! I accompanied him as he agonized with his concern for the needs of his family when he made the decision about pleading.

I am deeply troubled by what has happened since his trial here in Tampa. The Tampa federal prosecutors have publicly stated that they intended he not be required to testify in grand juries, and that is why the normal requirement to do so was left out of the plea agreement. We are long past the time when we should be holding this man from his family and his life! It makes me as a citizen of this wonderful country question deeply the system of justice that has emerged in recent years. If this can be done in this case, over time, could this not be done to others of us? I am writing you as a pastor and as a fellow citizen. As a pastor I'm pleading for mercy; and as a citizen for justice.

Sincerely,

Dr. Warren Clark, Pastor



Ch (Col) Harvey C. Holland, USAF Retired  
The Rev. Miriam H. Holland

Port St. Lucie, FL 34952

July 4, 2008

Judge Leonie Brinkema  
U.S. District Court Judge  
Eastern District of Virginia  
Albert V. Bryan Courthouse  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, Virginia, 22314-5798

To the Honorable Leonie Brinkema:

We are two of the many who are proud to be able to claim Dr. Al-Arian and his wife, Nahla, as our friends. Harvey is a retired Air Force chaplain who then spent several years working as a VR counselor for the state of Florida. After Harvey retired from the Air Force, Miriam went back to graduate school and then served as a FL Conference United Methodist pastor for 15 years.

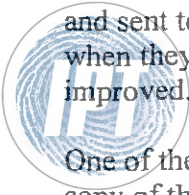
In the course of Harvey's career as an Air Force chaplain, two of the friends we especially appreciated were an Army couple whose ancestry was Japanese. The husband was a West Point graduate and Army surgeon who had grown up in Hawaii where there was no desert for relocation camps after Pearl Harbor, but the wife, Kathy who was born in California, spent several growing-up years behind barbed wire in the American desert.

A few years back, when we realized in connection with a FL political campaign, that an award-winning Palestinian USF professor was being demonized, it was obvious that 9/11 had triggered another betrayal of our country's ideals of fair play and due process. We were very concerned to try to play a responsible role this time.

At that time, we didn't actually have a personal relationship with any of the family members, but through church friends in Tampa, trips to Tampa during the trial, being kept informed by Friends of Human Rights, arranging for Nahla and Mel Underbakke to speak at a Methodist Federation for Social Action retreat, etc. we had a chance to discover what a remarkable family this was. Our relationship with Sami has been by mail. Even though our major concern in recent months has been to get him deported before he is mistreated any more, we consider him a great asset to this country and to the world, and expect him to be invited back in the future.

The friends and family members who receive our Christmas letter know that the Al-Arian situation has been a major concern of ours for years now. Miriam has made the statement that one question she expects to be asked at the Last Judgment is: "And what did you do on behalf of my servant, Sami Al-Arian?"

We are having a bit of difficulty getting our minds around the idea of Sami's being released on bail. It sounds so normal and reasonable and American. So much of this story so far has not been at all normal or reasonable or American: like years of solitary confinement before the trial, or having the trial judge refuse to recognize the jury's refusal to return a single guilty plea and sentencing him on the basis of charges that were rejected, or the times when he was picked up



and sent to a punishment situation where his family and friends didn't know where he was, and when they found out, had to mount a campaign of calls and emails before the situation was improved.

One of the things that has occurred to us is that if he were at home on bail we could send him a copy of the issue of New World Outlook, the Mission Magazine of the United Methodist Church, that is based on the Israel/Palestine Mission Study. Back before Nahla left for Egypt, we had sent him a copy of the United Methodist Women's magazine on the same subject. When we saw Nahla at the Tampa Farewell Party, she said, "Sami loved what you sent him."

We tried to send him the other magazine also, but he was not allowed to have it. The reason given was that it did not come directly from the publisher. We thought that was just an excuse, but have recently learned that that is a prison policy, and we should just ask the UM Publishing company to mail a copy. To be able to send it to a home rather than a prison would be so much better!

Back in May we received a letter from Dr. Sami written on May 17 in which he said, I've been told by my attorneys that the government is determined to see criminal indictment on contempt sometime this week. Obviously, if that happens, my deportation will be indefinitely suspended." As dreadful as the news was, at that point he sounded remarkably resigned to whatever the future held, but expressed special regret that he would not be able to see his mother. We have two sons about the same age as Sami so we truly related to that situation. We don't know whether being out on bail would make it possible for his mother to visit with him or not, but are very sure that she would be thankful for any improvement to his situation.

We are very hopeful that you will approve Dr. Al-Arian's release on bond pending trial. Actually, we are very hopeful that you will do whatever you can to bring this tragic case to an end as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Harvey C. Holland  
Miriam H. Holland



Judge Leonie Brinkema  
U.S. District Court Judge  
Eastern District of Virginia  
Albert V. Bryan Courthouse  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, Virginia, 22314-5798

Dear Judge Brinkema:

I am writing to you out of a grave concern for Dr. Sami Al-Arian. I am concerned not only for the well-being of this human being, I am also concerned for the dangerous mark this is leaving on our country. Our country fights wars in other countries to preserve justice of their citizens, yet it has somehow turned a blind eye to preserving the justice of people living in our own country. He has raised American children who not only embody every important and defining trait of the American Dream, but they also serve as role models to everyone they know and meet. He is no threat to anyone and has been proven innocent by an American jury. There is no reason to keep this man away from his family any longer. Dr. Al-Arian as a man of uncompromising integrity, and his community rightly misses him. Five years of imprisonment has caused he and his family untold suffering. In the name of all that is fair and just, I urge you to allow him to rejoin his family while he is awaiting trial.

Sincerely,

Natania Abdelfattah

Ladera Ranch, CA 92694

7/8/2008





Judge Leonie Brinkema  
U.S. District Court Judge  
Eastern District of Virginia  
Albert V. Bryan Courthouse  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, Virginia, 22314-5798

Dear Judge Brinkema,

As a longtime resident of Tampa, Florida, I can honestly say that, when he was among us, Dr. Sami Al-Arian served our community more faithfully and more persistently than anyone else I know. As a distinguished professor at University of South Florida, he taught Computer Science to a number of my colleagues with a passion for excellence that, even decades later, his students recall with fondness and gratitude. As a civic leader, he worked tirelessly with ecumenical groups to promote justice and equality among all of Tampa's residents. As an educator, he founded a respected school that continues to thrive, even in his absence, turning out students who are academically capable, morally responsible, and community-oriented. As a loving family man, he infused his children with a love of justice and a respect for others that persists today, in spite of all of the horrors that they have personally endured. Wherever Dr. Al-Arian went, he was a bridge-builder, seeking to find a common ground where people of all faiths and backgrounds could work together for the good of the community.

In my fifty-eight years, I have never before been considered a political activist. In fact, I am much more comfortable in my roles of mother, grandmother, and software engineer. But my Christian faith and my sense of moral decency compel me to cry out loudly against the injustice that continues to persist in the case of Dr. Al-Arian. Although a jury of his peers failed to convict him on even one of many charges, he has served more than five years in prison, often under extremely harsh conditions. And although he was allowed to enter a plea agreement with the understanding that he would not be required to appear before a federal grand jury, our government has since asked him to do just that.

I implore you, Your Honor -- in the name of all that is good about this country -- to finally allow justice to prevail in Dr. Al-Arian's case. Our government should never be in the business of incarcerating political prisoners. Please stand up courageously on the side of fairness, justice, and true democracy to release Dr. Al-Arian, allowing him to return to the family that loves him.

Sincerely,

Lois M. Price

Tampa, Florida 33626





Yasmin Moll  
Hoboken, NJ 07030

Judge Leonie Brinkema  
U.S. District Court Judge  
Eastern District of Virginia  
Albert V. Bryan Courthouse  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, Virginia, 22314-5798

To the Honorable Leonie Brinkema:

I write to you in the hopes that the Court will allow Dr. Sami Al-Arian bail. I am doctoral candidate in Cultural Anthropology at New York University, residing in New Jersey.

I have known the Al-Arian family since 1999. I attended Georgetown University with Dr. Al-Arian's eldest daughter Laila. While at Georgetown, I had the privilege of attending an extremely informative public lecture by Dr. Al-Arian on "secret evidence" and civil liberties. I found him to be an intelligent, articulate and compassionate individual who was very concerned that this country should live up to its high ideals, ideals which render it unique amongst other nations of the world.

When Dr. Al-Arian was awaiting his trial, I was so moved by the injustices surrounding his case that I researched and wrote a feature-length magazine article detailing the various issues involved in his arrest. In the course of my interviews with his family, I found them to continue to believe in the justice of the Court even as their husband and father was being held in unconstitutional conditions. Their belief continues to this day. I hope that the Court may finally render Dr. Al-Arian justice by granting him bail and allowing him to be reunited with his family, a reunion which is long overdue.

Respectfully yours,

Yasmin Moll



# UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

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July 4, 2008

The Honorable Judge Leonie Brinkema  
U.S. District Court Judge  
Eastern District of Virginia  
Albert V. Bryan Courthouse  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, Virginia, 22314-5798

Dear Judge Brinkema,

I write to vouch for the moral character of Professor Sami A. Al-Arian, a fellow scholar whom I have known for 15 years, and to plead that he be allowed to be free on bail during his forthcoming trial. In all of my dealings with Mr. Al-Arian, I have found him to be utterly trustworthy and reliable. Everything I know of him and all of the contacts I have had with him go against the allegations formerly brought against him – allegations of which, as you know, a jury of his peers ruled he could not be found guilty. Please allow my letter to serve as part of the record about the person and activities of Sami Al-Arian.

My acquaintance with Mr. Al-Arian stems from the WISE institute that was based at the University of South Florida. Like many other scholars who focus on Islam – its faith, politics, and culture – I attended conferences sponsored by WISE and hold it in high esteem, especially because of Sami Al-Arian's excellent management of it. I learned much from the institute's conferences and have used its publications to study contemporary Islamic issues with students and in other learned settings.

Since that first meeting, my relationships with Sami Al-Arian multiplied and extended through many other organizations devoted to the study of Islam today. In all of our meetings, interactions, telephone conversations, and e-mail exchanges, he manifested the same dedication to freedom and learning that first impressed me so. Moreover, I have now come to know two of his older children – Laila and Abdullah – as well as his wife. If the moral character of children are any indication of the moral character of a parent, and if the dedication of a loving wife testifies in any manner to the character of her husband, then Sami Al-Arian is surely the example that all fathers and husbands would do well to imitate.

Sami Al-Arian has suffered much during his incarceration the last 5 years. He has done all that he could to comply with governmental regulations while fighting desperately for his right to be heard. And during these long years, he has never conducted himself in any manner that would call his trustworthiness or commitment to his word into question. Now that this new indictment has been brought against him, it is only fair that he be accorded the privilege of being



free on bail while awaiting trial. Indeed, it would be in keeping with the highest principles of our judicial system to grant him that freedom. In addition, it would allow him to be in contact with his family – especially his younger children who have suffered immensely during his long incarceration.

Precisely because our judicial system rests on the principle that the accused is deemed innocent until proven guilty, it would be fitting and just to allow Sami Al-Arian to remain free on bail while awaiting trial in your court.

For the record, I write as a concerned citizen of the United States, who has demonstrated citizenship commitment through military service (officer, US Army 1967-69) among other things. I write, as well, as a recently retired university professor who has taught about political justice and moral conduct in the context of courses on the history of political philosophy.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Charles E. Butterworth". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Charles E. Butterworth  
Emeritus Professor



Judge Leonie Brinkema  
U.S. District Court Judge  
Eastern District of Virginia  
Albert V. Bryan Courthouse  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, Virginia, 22314-5798

Dear Judge Brinkema:

I am writing to you out of a grave concern for Dr. Sami Al-Arian. I have known Dr. Al-Arian for over 15 years. I first met him at the University of South Florida when I was teaching there and he was a tenured professor. He was well respected at the university and he received awards for his teaching. He also lived in my neighborhood in Tampa where he was very active in the community. Members of my church were invited to his mosque many times.

I have known Dr. Al-Arian as a man of uncompromising integrity, and his community rightly misses him. Five years of imprisonment has caused he and his family untold suffering. In the name of all that is fair and just, I urge you to allow him to rejoin his family while he is awaiting trial.

Sincerely,

Melva Underbakke, Ph.D.

Temple Terrace, FL 33617