

RE: State of MD v. Adnan Syed, Case No. 199103042-46

VIA : HAND DELIVERY

Honorable Wanda Keyes Heard, Judge  
Circuit Court for Baltimore City

Dear Judge Heard,

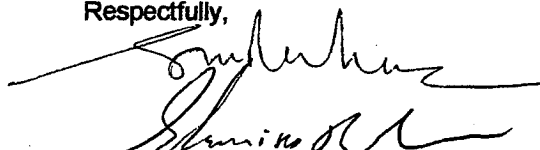
We are writing on behalf of our son, Adnan Syed, who is incarcerated at the Baltimore City Detention Center. He is unable to send the court a letter quickly due to his circumstances; however, he has mailed the court a letter which will take a day or two to receive. Adnan is scheduled to appear before the court on Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> for a hearing on Motion for New Trial and to be sentenced. We are respectfully requesting that the hearing and sentencing be postponed due to the fact that Adnan's attorney, Ms. Christina Gutierrez, has been discharged from the case.

For the past two weeks Adnan has been trying to get in touch with Ms. Gutierrez. She has not spoken to him on the phone, nor come to see him. He waited patiently day after day hoping she would come to help prepare for sentencing. Contrary to what Adnan and his family and friends want, Ms. Gutierrez refuses to schedule mitigating witnesses for sentencing. In addition, Adnan has repeatedly asked for the Motion for New Trial to be amended, but Ms. Gutierrez will not consider it or even explain why she won't. These issues, along with many others that came up during Ms. Gutierrez's representation of Adnan, are the reason Ms. Gutierrez has been dismissed.

Because Adnan has been incarcerated for a year, he has been completely dependent on Ms. Gutierrez. Adnan has been trying to get in touch with her, calling every day for her, in order to tell her that she is being discharged so that he can apply for a public defender. At the same time, the public defender's office has informed us that Adnan cannot apply for a public defender until Ms. Gutierrez puts it in writing that she relinquishes all ties with Adnan. Adnan's hands have been tied because Ms. Gutierrez will not contact him, nor can he apply for a public defender until Ms. Gutierrez gives him written documentation that she is no longer representing him. At this point, it is critical a postponement be granted to ensure Adnan receive competent representation.

The attorney-client relationship has been irreparably destroyed due to Ms. Gutierrez's actions. Adnan is not prepared at all for sentencing and he strenuously objects to her continued representation. He is hoping a public defender will help him prepare and also help schedule mitigating witnesses. We implore you to take into consideration these circumstances and grant us a postponement.

Respectfully,



Mr. & Mrs. Syed Masudur Rahman

cc: Christina Gutierrez  
Assistant State's Attorney Kevin Urick  
Office of the Public Defender for Baltimore City

EXHIBIT

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