

Mina Hosseinipour, MD, MPH  
Area 9/284  
Lilongwe, Malawi

Dec 22, 2022,

The Honorable Judge Greg N. Stivers  
Chief District Judge  
423 Frederica Street  
Owensboro, KY 42301

Dear Honorable Judge Stivers,

By way of introduction, I am Mina Hosseinipour. I am an internal medicine and infectious diseases physician at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where I am a Professor of Medicine and the Scientific Director of our Malawi based project called "UNC Project Malawi". I have lived in Malawi for the past 2 decades, leading efforts to expand HIV treatment and Prevention service to those most in need through research, capacity building and service provision. I write many reference letters in my professional role as an academic, but none as important as this one. I have known Faraday Hosseinipour my entire life and hope that I can convey what an impressive and compassionate individual she is.

Faraday (Fara) Hosseinipour is my sister and she is a kind, generous, caring person with loyalty to family among her greatest strengths. Her provision of direct family support roles has allowed me to pursue my career goals; knowing that while I may be half-way around the world, she has always been available to drop everything to tend to my parents immediately. While her career path is widely divergent than my own, her path is chosen to allow her the flexibility to be available to family and friends in times of need. As a few examples, when my father was seriously injured in a car accident in 2004, while we both immediately flew to Kentucky to be at the hospital, she stayed to support my parents through the rehab process. After my father's death in 2020, we agreed that it would be best if my mother relocated to Florida to be near my sister to support her. Fara spent over a month in KY with my mother preparing for her relocation to Florida, assisted with the move and housed my mother for 9 months while my mother determined her desired living arrangement. With my mother seeking to maintain her independence, my sister worked to support the painting and renovations of my mother's new home. She visits my mother daily to check on her general well-being and be a friend and companion and arranges regular visits with other extended family members living in the area. Fara's generosity extends beyond my mother. She also is essential to her husband's ongoing health, spending months supporting his health through maintaining his complicated wound management until full healing. At the peak of the COVID pandemic, she gladly took in her stepson Dale to live with her while the COVID restrictions left him unemployed.

While I live abroad, I regularly see my family each time I visit the USA for work purposes, or approximately 3 to 4 times per year, and comment on my observations on the year. My sister has lived in the same house and neighborhood for 20 years. She drove the same car for 20 years, only recently replacing the vehicle. Her bicycle is probably also 20 years old. Certainly, her lifestyle is not extravagant.

My relationship with my sister focuses mostly on our commonalities. We love our family and friends, both equally love our pets, sharing photos and videos regularly. Every gathering is a chance to take photos with every permutation of individual present, and clearly in multiple poses. We compare our fitness programs; she loves body pump classes and swimming. We bicycle when we're together and she'll "push it" when we're together since she knows I like to ride faster than her. She's mastered cooking all of my Dad's favorite Persian dishes, putting her own flair to the recipes. We both love to sing along to 80s music while

driving in the car; there is a competition to see who is more tone-deaf and makes the most goofs with the lyrics.

Our professions are clearly varied but I know she is fiercely proud of her little sister. And while I have admittedly not entirely understood her preferred path, I have had the opportunity to observe her energy and passion for the projects and people with whom she has worked. The interactions have always suggested high levels of advocacy, support, and respect for those working with her. Frequently, she would excuse herself from our family gathering to troubleshoot problems or resolve issues for her distributors, often at odds hours, to try and ensure their success. Never would have interpreted her interactions as predatory or insincere. She truly believed in the products. I was also impressed, although not surprised, with her dedication to her community by rooting out corrupt practices in her homeowner's association. Our father instilled a strong sense of justice and equality throughout our upbringing.

When I saw her in October 2022 (I believe this was after the conviction), I was deeply concerned that she had lost 20 pounds (15% of her body weight) since I had seen her in June. While we both always seemed to unsuccessfully take off that "last few pounds", this dramatic weight loss without any major fitness changes seemed odd. We also routinely check our blood pressure when we're together and I was alarmed how high her pressures were running. She attributed it to her energy drink and maybe a little stress. I left Florida deeply concerned that something was amiss.

She finally confided in me of her deep legal troubles on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Through tears and broken speech, she relayed her story of the past 5 years with respect to the evolution of the lawsuit and the eventual conviction. Her faulty reasoning for not involving me sooner, "I didn't want to harm your career" and "maybe you would abandon me as a sister". She believed if everyone heard her side, it would be obvious she would be acquitted. I wish she engaged me from the beginning, when I could have better advised her. I certainly treasure her far more than my career. Sparing me any stress should not have been among her concerns, but she has always "looked out" for her little sister. This time, she needed to look to me for help. Unfortunately, we can't go back.

Now, our futures are in your hands. Clearly, my sister's ongoing support to my elderly mother would be compromised if she served a lengthy sentence, likely being detrimental to my mother's well-being. Fara's husband relies on her continued support for his health. Her own health has been compromised by her stress response to the situation. Certainly, she will be missed by her friends and family and the world will be a little less bright. Perhaps none of this is unique; incarceration is intended as a punishment befitting the crime; life disruption to all friends and family is the side effect. I sincerely hope as you review the case focused on my sister, you will lean toward leniency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mina Hosseinipour". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and connected.

Mina Hosseinipour, MD, MPH  
Professor of Medicine, UNC-CH  
Scientific Director, UNC Project Malawi