

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**UNITED STATES**

**v.**

**MARIAM TAHA THOMPSON**

**Criminal No. 20-CR-0067**

**DEFENDANT’S MEMORANDUM IN AID OF SENTENCING**

Defendant Mariam Thompson, by and through undersigned counsel, respectfully files this Memorandum in Aid of Sentencing. Ms. Thompson is extraordinarily remorseful for her actions and has accepted responsibility for them. She has entered a plea of guilty to one count of Conspiracy to Gather or Deliver Defense Information to Aid a Foreign Government, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 794(a) and (c) and is before the Court for sentencing. *See generally* PSR.

Ms. Thompson is sixty-two (62) years old, was born in Beirut, Lebanon, and is the fourth of ten children. *See* PSR ¶ 47. She grew up extremely poor and began working at the age of nine, doing domestic work with her mother. *Id.* at 49. However, she was determined to make her dreams a reality. She emigrated to the U.S. in 1990, became a citizen in 1993, and continued to raise her four children and build her career. *Id.* at ¶ 53, 55. After her husband died in 2002, she worked at various times in different capacities in and around the Middle East, including in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, and Syria. *Id.* at 53. Her life is defined by her culture, her love for food and family, and most notably, her lovely grandchildren.

Ms. Thompson submits sixteen (16) letters of support for the Court to consider in determining its sentence in this case. Each letter gives the Court a more complete understanding of Ms. Thompson. *See* Exhibits B-P. Based upon Ms. Thompson’s personal history and

character, and the nature and circumstances of the offense, Ms. Thompson respectfully requests that the Court impose a sentence significantly below the low-end of the guidelines in this case. Such a sentence would be “sufficient, but not greater than necessary” to achieve the legitimate purposes of sentencing.<sup>1</sup>

## **I. THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF AN ADVISORY GUIDELINE RANGE**

While this Court must still correctly calculate the guideline range, *Gall v. United States*, 552 U.S. 38, 49 (2007), it may not treat that range as mandatory or presumptive, *Id.* at 51; *see also Nelson v. United States*, 555 U.S. 350, 352 (2009), but as “one factor among several” to be considered in imposing an appropriate sentence under § 3553(a). *Kimbrough v. United States*, 552 U.S. 85, 90 (2007). The Court must “consider all of the § 3553(a) factors,” “make an individualized assessment based on the facts presented,” *Gall* at 49-50, and explain how the facts relate to the purposes of sentencing. *Id.* at 53-60; *See also Pepper v. United States*, 131 S. Ct. 1229, 1242-43 (2011). The Court’s “overarching” duty is to “‘impose a sentence sufficient, but not greater than necessary’ to accomplish the goals of sentencing.” *Kimbrough* at 101; *Pepper* at 1242-43.

In order to ensure that the guidelines are truly advisory and constitutional, this Court has the authority to disagree with a guideline as a matter of policy. Because “the Guidelines are now advisory . . . , as a general matter, courts may vary [from Guidelines ranges] based solely on policy considerations, including disagreements with the Guidelines.” *Kimbrough*. at 101-02 (internal punctuation omitted) (*citing Rita v. United States*, 551 U.S. 338, 351 (2007) (holding

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<sup>1</sup> *See* 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a).

that district courts may find that the “Guidelines sentence itself fails properly to reflect § 3553(a) considerations”).

Additionally, “[i]t has been uniform and constant in the federal judicial tradition for the sentencing judge to consider every convicted person as an individual and every case as a unique study in the human failings that sometimes mitigate, sometimes magnify, the crime and the punishment to ensue.” *Koon v. United States*, 518 U.S. 81, 113 (1996). Permitting sentencing courts to consider the widest possible breadth of information about a defendant “ensures that the punishment will suit not merely the offense but the individual defendant.” *Pepper* at 1240 (citing *Wasman v. United States*, 468 U. S. 559, 564 (1984)).

In this regard, “the district court’s job is not [even] to impose a reasonable sentence. Rather, a district court’s mandate is to impose a sentence sufficient, but not greater than necessary, to comply with the purposes of section 3553(a)(2).” *United States v. Foreman*, 436 F.3d 638, 644, n.1 (6th Cir. 2006). Accordingly, “if a district court were explicitly to conclude that two sentences equally served the statutory purpose of § 3553, it could not, consistent with the parsimony clause, impose the higher.” *United States v. Ministro-Tapia*, 470 F.3d 137 (2d Cir. 2006).

## II. THE UNITED STATES SENTENCING GUIDELINES

In accordance with the PSR in this matter, the parties agree that the following Sentencing Guidelines sections apply: *See* PSR ¶ 5 and ¶ 29-39.

### 2018 Guidelines

USSG § 2M3.1(a)(2) – Base Offense Level	37
USSG § 3A1.4(a) – Victim Related Adjustment - Terrorism	+12
USSG § 3B1.3 – Role Adjustment – Position of Trust	+2

	Total	51
Acceptance of Responsibility USSG §3E1.1(a)		-2
Acceptance of Responsibility USSG §3E1.1(b)		-1
<b>SUBTOTAL OFFENSE LEVEL</b>		<b>48</b>

Pursuant to Chapter 5, Part A (comment n.2), in those rare instances where the total offense level is calculated in excess of 43, the offense level will be treated as a level 43.

<b>TOTAL OFFENSE LEVEL</b>	<b>43</b>
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Ms. Thompson has a criminal history score of zero which would usually yield a criminal history category of I for sentencing purposes. *See* PSR ¶ 42. However, pursuant to USSG § 3A1.4(b), if the offense involved a federal crime of terrorism, the criminal history category is VI. These calculations, with a total offense level of forty-three (43) and a criminal history category of VI, would result in an advisory Guidelines range for Ms. Thompson of life. *See* USSG Sentencing Table; *see also* PSR ¶ 91.

### III. 18 U.S.C. § 3553(A) FACTORS

#### A. The Nature and Circumstances of the Offense.

Ms. Thompson's involvement in the instant offense is extraordinarily regrettable. As stated in Ms. Thompson's letter to the Court, "I fully accept responsibility for my actions. I am not proud of what I have done, and am filled with sadness and regret for what happened." *See* Exhibit A. Ms. Thompson is proud of her service to the United States as she writes, "I participated in thousands of missions and raids side by side with our soldiers, and helped save lives." *Id.* She was respected, loved, and admired for her work overseas, and as she puts it, she was the "ears and tongues in the war against terrorism." *Id.* Ms. Thompson received several letters of recommendation from Generals for her professionalism and bravery. *See* Exhibits M-N.

In discussing the instant offense, Ms. Thompson explains that she “figured that I was getting old with no one to hold me when I cry or to warm me with love and care. I needed love.” *Id.* She was naïve and fell for the empty promises of a “smiling future” with a master manipulator who took advantage of her and convinced her to commit the greatest mistake of her life. *Id.* Ms. Thompson asks the court “for mercy,” and to “give me time to spend with my children and grandchildren in the end of my years.” *Id.* Ms. Thompson is incredibly remorseful for the damage she has caused to this country, and the embarrassment her actions have brought upon her country, her family, and herself.

While Ms. Thompson takes complete responsibility for her actions, it is important for the Court to understand the context and nature of how the offense occurred. Ms. Thompson was happily married to her husband for seventeen (17) years until his tragic passing from cancer in 2002. Following his death, Ms. Thompson became involved in an abusive relationship that lasted only six months. Afterwards, Ms. Thompson refocused her attention on her career, children, and grandchildren. In 2017, many years later, as Ms. Thompson entered older age and was working overseas, she met the unindicted co-conspirator which ultimately led to the instant offense. It was not until late early January 2020 that the man convinced Ms. Thompson to engage in the conduct described in the Statement of Facts. Her criminal conduct encompassed less than sixty (60) days.

To put it simply, Ms. Thompson was lonely and fell in love with a master manipulator who convinced her to make the biggest mistakes of her life. Ms. Thompson’s good-hearted nature, selfless personality, and vulnerability made her a perfect target for manipulation. It does not excuse Ms. Thompson’s actions, but it does provide necessary context to understand how a

woman with such an impeccable and impressive background stands before this Court today facing some of the most severe consequences under the law.

**B. Mariam Thompson’ History and Characteristics.**

Simply put, Mariam Thompson is beloved by her family, friends, and co-workers, as evidenced by the sixteen (16) letters of support submitted as part of this memorandum on her behalf. *See* Exhibits B-P. The letters paint a picture of a woman who is well respected, loved, and admired for her dedication to her family and her work. *Id.*

Arthur Thompson, Ms. Thompson’s eldest son, writes that his mother’s “heart is big and she is always thinking about everyone around her rather than thinking of herself.” *See* Exhibit B. Understanding that the charges are “severe,” Mr. Thompson believes that “given the chance, she would help the community” because she is “an outstanding member of society.” *Id.* “The offense she is charged with is something that took everyone by surprise.” *Id.* Mr. Thompson recalls his mother calling her soldiers “family,” and sacrificing vacations so she could stay and perform her duties. *Id.* He still struggles with the realities of this offense as he writes that “her love for the military and the US is beyond what a regular person would have.” *Id.* Mr. Thompson despises the person who took advantage of his mother, calling him “evil.” *Id.* He urges the Court for its leniency in fashioning an appropriate sentence, saying “please let her see her grandkids outside the walls of a prison.” *Id.*

Daniel Thompson, another of Ms. Thompson’s sons, writes how “shocked” he was upon hearing of his mother’s arrest, not only because it “was out character,” but because “she has always been a kind and respectful, law abiding citizen, who made sure to enforce these habits within me.” *See* Exhibit C. Daniel paints a picture for the Court of a woman who is generous and kind and “loves cooking food for anyone and everyone.” *Id.* He has fond memories of his

mother, hosting family and friends at the house, or even selling “homemade foods at the fair.” *Id.* Daniel is grateful and admires that Ms. Thompson “always worked to provide for her family,” and during her work overseas, “she always expressed her pride in being American.” *Id.* During every conversation Daniel has had with Ms. Thompson during her incarceration, “her remorse and sorrow ring true.” *Id.*

Michael Thompson, Ms. Thompson’s youngest son, writes about how hard-working his mother is and how much he appreciates all of her sacrifice. *See* Exhibit D. “When I was a kid and my father passed away, my mom not only was my hard-working mother, but she was also being the father – taking care of all four of her kids and my grandma.” *Id.* Ms. Thompson was “working 5 jobs.” *Id.* Michael makes an interesting observation about Ms. Thompson – that she “has always been helping her family and friends to the point that she never truly loved herself.” *Id.* This provides context to how Ms. Thompson got caught up in the instant offense and why she was the perfect vulnerable target for espionage recruitment.

Michael writes that his mother “is the reason why I got sober and she is the reason why I’m going to be graduating from nursing school.” *Id.* Michael expresses the sorrow he feels about his mother’s situation. “Listening to her cry every phone call we have and hearing her ask if her own mother is dead yet has broken me more than the death of my father.” *Id.* “I wake up every night screaming, feeling like I can’t breathe, knowing that I lost the last person who has ever cared for me.” *Id.*

Ms. Thompson’s brother, Kayed Taha, adds that his sister is a “good and wonderful woman,” who “spent her whole life working to help her family,” never asking anyone for anything in return. *See* Exhibit E. He simply asks the Court to “give my sister a chance.” *Id.*

Sarah Thompson wrote a heartfelt letter explaining to the Court how her “mom means the

world to me.” *See* Exhibit F. Sarah paints a picture of a “selfless” woman who loved being a part of her community, taking part in fairs and volunteering to those being treated at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. *Id.* Ms. Thompson has a passion for cooking, and Sarah talks about her mom’s cooking always impressing the neighbors and the community. *Id.* In addition to being a great cook, Ms. Thompson loved to have “time of quiet reflection” fishing at lakes nearby with her family. *Id.* Sarah explains that her “mother has lost everything,” “is very remorseful, feels ashamed, and is very aware of the magnitude of her actions and the effect that it has had on her family, friends, and country.” *Id.*

A longtime family friend, Cristina Adams, has known Ms. Thompson for over ten (10) years, and has always known her “to be very generous to her family, providing both financial and emotional support to her children and grandchildren.” *See* Exhibit G. Ms. Adams describes the instance offense as both “shocking and egregious,” but that the “Mariam I knew would never have done anything to hurt the U.S.” *Id.* Ms. Adams knew Ms. Thompson to reference America as “my country.” Ms. Adams believes the only explanation to Ms. Thompson’s offense is that “she was coerced and manipulated by evil persons,” and that the offense is “totally out of character for the intelligence and humble woman I knew.” *Id.* Ms. Adams is confident Ms. Thompson is remorseful and despite everything, still believes that Ms. Thompson is “an honorable individual, a valuable member of society, and a good human being.” *Id.*

A close family member of over ten (10) years, Jessica Adams writes that “I never in 1000 years thought that Mariam would be a part of something like this.” *See* Exhibit H. In all the time Ms. Adams has known Ms. Thompson, she “has been a very thoughtful, caring, giving, loving, and helpful part of our family.” *Id.* She also believes that “Mariam was manipulated by a master manipulator.” *Id.* And although “she is very smart ... she is naïve to an extent.” *Id.* Ms. Adams



tells of Ms. Thompson always making time for daily phone and Facetime calls with her grandchildren, and “thinking about these kids not having their grandma as they grow up is devastating.” *Id.* Ms. Adams would “bet my life that Mariam would never commit another crime again” and only wants “Mariam to be part of the family again.” *Id.*

Lori Adams and Ms. Thompson are both grandmothers to two young children and have known each other for over thirty (30) years. *See* Exhibit I. Ms. Adams recalls times visiting Ms. Thompson’s home over the years, enjoying the generosity of food and company Ms. Thompson’s family provided. “Her home was comfortable and inviting and I enjoyed our visits.” *Id.* Ms. Adams describes Ms. Thompson as “an incredibly generous friend, mother, sister, and grandmother,” adding that “the grandchildren adore her,” and “celebrations haven’t been the same without her.” *Id.* In reference to the instant offense, Ms. Adams states that “this has been a horrific tragedy; a mistake that she wishes she could reverse.” Ms. Adams also believes in her heart that Ms. Thompson was manipulated, saying “I feel Mariam did not know what she was getting herself into.” *Id.* Ms. Adams “prays for her freedom and the chance to have her back into the family.” *Id.*

Nicole Adams is Ms. Thompson’s future daughter in law and the mother to Ms. Thompson’s two grandchildren. *See* Exhibit J. Ms. Adams unequivocally states that while she “cannot excuse her behavior,” “this is completely out of character for the woman I know and love.” *Id.* “She is the one of the most loving, caring, and hardworking people I’ve ever met.” *Id.* Ms. Adams gives examples of how incredible of a grandmother Ms. Thompson is and how hard it’s been on her children, ages three and four, to not have their grandma around. *Id.* “Mariam loved singing to the kids ... enjoying a movie ... rocking my daughter to sleep ...” *Id.* Ms. Adams asks the court for “leniency when sentencing Mariam,” because she has “no doubt she

will work extremely hard to make this right.” “She’s a good person who has many people that love her and will hold her accountable.” *Id.*

Jan Wale, a friend for thirty years met Ms. Thompson while she was an interpreter at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. *See* Exhibit O. She has many fond memories, remembering when they “visited each other’s homes, celebrated family events, and enjoyed learning about each other’s cultures.” *Id.* When Ms. Thompson’s husband passed away, Ms. Wale and her family were there to help support Ms. Thompson and they remember her working extremely hard to support her family in every way she could. *Id.* “Hard work and ingenuity, combined with a lively sense of humor, seemed to be trademarks of her personality.” *Id.* Ms. Wale has always been grateful for Ms. Thompson’s “exceptional kindness and generosity” towards her aging parents, often bringing them gifts and sharing stories of laughter. *Id.* Like many others that support Ms. Thompson, they are “stunned” by her current situation, and “are convinced the events which led to this were orchestrated by people seeking to take advantage of her.” *Id.*

Lowell Dale, another friend of Ms. Thompson’s for over thirty (30) years, writes that he has “always been impressed by Mariam’s resilience to challenges presented to her and her work ethic to accomplish the new goals she set for herself.” *See* Exhibit P. Mr. Dale first met Ms. Thompson at the Mayo Clinic, where he treated the member of the Saudi royal family Ms. Thompson worked for, and later treated Ms. Thompson, her now deceased husband, and her children. *Id.* Mr. Dale always “admired her dedication to her children.” *Id.* Mr. Dale shares the same affection towards Ms. Thompson that many others do – and expressed feelings generated by interactions with her as “warm, sincere, kind, generous, hardworking, dedicated, full of life, energy, and ambition.” *Id.* Mr. Dale looks forward to “re-establishing my relationship with her” upon the completion of her sentence. *Id.*

Robert Heston, a career military intelligence officer of thirty-one (31) years with an incredible record of service to the United States, writes that he was “shocked” to hear about Ms. Thompson’s arrest because he felt it “was so out of character.” *See* Exhibit K. Mr. Heston worked for a year in Afghanistan with Ms. Thompson in her role as a cultural advisor and felt this way in particular because of the way he “saw her handle classified materials and discussions around those who were not privy to the things we were directly involved with.” *Id.* Mr. Heston has been tasked on many occasions in his career to form and lead teams for “difficult, highly classified work.” *Id.* He expresses to the Court that not only was Ms. Thompson chosen to be a part of one of these teams, but that he would still choose her today. *Id.* Mr. Heston sympathizes with Ms. Thompson and believes that she “fell victim to someone, a scheme, a sweet talker.” *Id.* Mr. Heston believes that this experience “would be nothing less than a constant reminder to do better, to move forward, and to live up to the family values she so often shared with me when we worked together.” *Id.*

A coworker and retired Army Nurse, Catherine Haverty was “shocked” upon learning of Ms. Thompson’s offense and has “always considered her to be extremely honest and trustworthy, and this action seems totally out of character for her.” *See* Exhibit L. Ms. Thompson served as Ms. Haverty’s interpreter in Iraq where they provided medical services to many Iraqi woman and children. Ms. Haverty recalls Ms. Thompson as “excellent at performing any task” including “performing first aid and nursing duties.” *Id.* Even during war, Ms. Thompson “was always cheerful and upbeat,” and “remained calm no matter the circumstance.” *Id.* Ms. Haverty has much respect for Ms. Thompson, explaining that “she loves her family dearly and has taken very good care of them for many years.” *Id.* She recalls a time when their vehicles were hit with IEDs and there were casualties, and Ms. Thompson went “above and beyond what was expected of

her” by assisting “with the retrieval of the soldier’s remains to be sent to their families at home.”

*Id.* Ms. Haverty pleads the Court for its leniency in sentencing her in this matter. *Id.*

Ms. Thompson’s record of service to the United States was impeccable and impressive, so much so that General David Petraeus wrote a letter of endorsement for her in 2010. *See* Exhibit M. General Petraeus wrote that Ms. Thompson is “a superb example of integrity, loyalty, and professionalism,” and that she “truly knows her craft.” *Id.* She was critical to the “progress of our mission” in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Ms. Thompson worked as a linguist for Lieutenant Colonel Dane A. Barksdale in 2008, and he had incredible things to say about his work with Ms. Thompson. *See* Exhibit N. LTC Barksdale described Ms. Thompson as an “outstanding professional that has an intuitive ability to relate to people,” and explained that “her abilities have been critical to our mission success and diplomatic relations between local tribal and political leaders.” *Id.* Ms. Thompson bridged cultural and religious understanding amongst both U.S. military personnel and local tribal leaders. “Her rapport with security and tribal leaders has mended and developed relationships that have prevented key fundamental issues boiling into sectarian violence.” *Id.* Aside from being an “invaluable asset,” LTC Barksdale further writes that Ms. Thompson “has a huge heart and is always trying to help people in need.” He goes on, “Mary loves America and promotes the American image of a strong woman to these people.” *Id.* But perhaps the most important thing he writes is that he “believes her role has had a direct impact in saving the lives of my Soldiers.” *Id.*

It is clear that Ms. Thompson is a woman of integrity who made a terrible mistake after being manipulated. She is looked up to and loved by her family, friends, and colleagues. Ms. Thompson is deserving of this Court’s leniency.

**C. The Damage Ms. Thompson's Caused to the United States was Mitigated.**

On the spectrum of espionage cases, their seriousness in nature, and damage caused to the national security interests of the United States. Ms. Thompson's case must be examined in the context of this spectrum. Ms. Thompson wholeheartedly accepts responsibility for her actions. *See Exhibit A.* Understanding that the damage done by Ms. Thompson was extremely serious, her activities spanned a relatively short period of time of between early January 2020 through late February 2020, when she was arrested. Her activities were short-lived, and the United States Government was able to undertake measures to mitigate the damage done. Unlike others who have been prosecuted, Mariam Thompson was not a career spy who was attempting to sabotage U.S. foreign policy efforts for years. In fact, she held a clearance for some time, never acted in any compromising manner, and served the United States as a contract linguist for many years. Ms. Thompson was vulnerable, lonely, and completely taken advantage of by a master manipulator who led her to believe he loved her.

**D. Ms. Thompson Poses Little or No Risk of Recidivism.**

Of all the purposes of sentencing, the need to protect the public from further crimes of the defendant is one of great practical concern and is the most capable of being measured. Fortunately, Ms. Thompson does not fit the archetype of a person who will commit new criminal offenses or recidivate. And because of the reinvigorated role of the judiciary in sentencing, judges can now impose sentences that take such research into consideration to more effectively impose sufficient, but not greater than necessary, sentences.

The judiciary's bolstered role is especially important given the Commission's own findings that "there is no correlation between recidivism and Guidelines' offense level. Whether an offender has a low or high guideline offense level, recidivism rates are similar. While

surprising at first glance, this finding should be expected as the Guidelines' offense level has long been recognized as not intended or designed to predict recidivism." *U.S. Sentencing Comm'n, Measuring Recidivism: The Criminal History Computation of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines* at 15 (May 2004) (hereinafter *Measuring Recidivism*). Thus, the guidelines are at odds with 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(2)(C). Accordingly, *Booker* has freed the judiciary to remedy this inconsistency.

In addition to what has already been described about Ms. Thompson' character demonstrating her ability to reform, the Commission has also objectively quantified her low likelihood of recidivism. For example, the Sentencing Commission's study confirms that recidivism rates decline relatively consistently as age increases. *See Measuring Recidivism* at 12. More specifically with respect to Ms. Thompson, who is 62 years old and a criminal history category of I have a recidivism rate of only 6.2 %. *Id.* at 28.

It is unfortunate that the Guidelines' offense levels do not take into consideration such data. The data exists yet is not utilized to inform the Commission's rulemaking. However, without even considering the circumstances of the offense, it is apparent that Ms. Thompson is not a person who is statistically likely to recidivate.

The Commission has also found that first offenders like Ms. Thompson are rarely reconvicted of a crime. In fact, only 3.5% of first offenders with zero criminal history points are ever reconvicted. *U.S Sentencing Comm'n, Recidivism and the First Offender* at Exhibit 6 (May of 2004) (hereinafter *First Offender*). Only 11.7% of all first offenders ever find themselves back in the criminal justice system (defined as reconviction, re-arrest, or revocation). *First Offender* at Exhibit 6. This is Ms. Thompson's first conviction, and the experience taught her a valuable life lesson to ensure she does not repeat the mistakes of the past.

**E. Ms. Thompson's Public Demise Serves as Adequate Deterrence to Others.**

Section 3553(a)(2)(B) requires the Court to consider “the need for the sentence imposed to afford adequate deterrence to criminal conduct.” Arguably, the government already substantially achieved the maximal deterrent effect of Ms. Thompson's offense simply by charging and convicting her. As a result, Ms. Thompson's name and the substance of her offense will be discussed in numerous conversations and settings among family and friends and within certain professional environments for years to come, a shameful reality from which she simply cannot escape. In short, Ms. Thompson's public professional demise sends a strong message to anyone foolish enough to attempt to divulge classified information.

Accordingly, Ms. Thompson, by and through undersigned counsel, respectfully requests that the Court sentence her to a sentence of significantly below the low-end of the guidelines.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of June 2021, I caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing Defendant's Memorandum in Aid of Sentencing to be delivered via ECF to Assistant United States Attorney John Cummings and DOJ Attorney Jennifer Gellie, United States Attorney's Office, 555 Fourth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20530.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
David Benowitz



# EXHIBIT A

The Honorable John D. Bates  
United States District Judge  
United States District Court for the District of Columbia  
333 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington D.C. 20001

Your Honor,

I fully accept responsibility for my actions. I am not proud of what I have done, and am filled with sadness and regret for what happened. This is my first arrest and I have never had any type of criminal history whatsoever. I served in Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan as a Linguist, Human Terrain Analyst, and Intelligence Analyst for about fifteen (15) years. During these years, I participated in thousands of missions and raids side by side with our soldiers, and helped save lives.

My nickname was Mary, but our soldiers called me "Mama Mary" because I cared about them and helped them whenever they had family or other problems. I share with our soldiers their sadness and happiness and I never got tired of listening to their struggles. I spent more time with our soldiers than with my children because I was their ears and tongues in the war against terrorism. I received many letters of appreciation from commanders I worked with such as General Petraeus, General Oats, General Huggins, and many others. I also received the Medal of Hero in the War Against Terrorism while I was serving in Afghanistan.

I spent most of my life working to raise my children, after my husband tragically passed away in 2002. I raised them good, and I am very proud of them because they are good members of society. During the past two years, I figured that I was getting old with no one to hold me when I cry or to warm me with love and care. I needed love and when I found this person, he promised me a good life with great love. He made me dream about the smiling future, but I did not know that it was all lies and that he was just taking advantage of me to reach his goals. When I discovered his lies, I stopped, but it was too late.

Your honor, I am the only family for my children. I am asking you for mercy and to give me time to spend with my children and my grandchildren in the end of my years. I never spent enough time with my children or grandchildren because I was overseas most of the time. Please consider my age, my health issues, and my work history against terrorism when you sentence me.

Sincerely,

Mariam Thompson

# **EXHIBIT B**

Dear Judge Bates,

My name is Arthur Thompson. I am Mariam Thompson's oldest son. I have known my mother my whole life. I am blessed that my mother has put her children before herself for all those years. I wish I could have told you about how amazing my mother is under better circumstances. Sadly, I have to talk about how amazing she is in the hopes you can see it as well.

My mother has put her life in danger so that she can provide for her and her family for all these years. That is who she is as a person. Her whole life she has put her family first. I remember her telling me that as a child she had to risk her life so that she could work to support her family. That is who my mother is. Her heart is full of love for her family and her friends. She would give anything so that they can prosper.

In my life, my mother has set me on the path that I am on today. My two children wouldn't have been here if it wasn't for her saving my life when I was younger. The path I am on today would have been a different one if it wasn't for her risking her life for me.

My mother is a person who helps everyone out she can. She is a person who has worked for a company that helps mentally challenged individuals get jobs. She herself has helped some of those people with work. Her heart is big and she is always thinking about everyone around her rather than thinking about herself.

I think that my mother is an outstanding member of society. I understand that her charges are severe. However, I think that given the chance she would help the community. I would hope that she helps others who are thinking about doing horrible things see the good they could do instead.

The offense she is charged with is something that took everyone by surprise. Her friends, family and I couldn't believe what we read on the news. The person my mother is would not allow me to think she could do those things. I remember when I worked in Iraq, she had friends with her during her moves. They would always talk about how she was the reason so many troops lived in Kalsu, Iraq. They always talked about how my mother wouldn't take vacations because she wanted to stay with her soldiers. She called them her family. My mother stayed in a forward operating base that was hit with mortar fire all the time. Any other person would either go home or take their vacations when they should have. Not my mother. She would make sure

everyone was OK and then think about taking a vacation. This is why I don't see how this offense could have happened. Her love for the military and the US is beyond what a regular person would have.

I think that the person who manipulated my mother is evil. This is what he was trained to do. Take advantage of a elderly woman that is vulnerable and has been in a warzone for a long period of time. I think this experience has opened my mother's eyes to seeing that the evil she was talking to only cared about what she could give and not her.

I hope in the future she could see her grandchildren. They love her very much and always ask where their Tata is. I tell them she is ok.

In the future, I hope she is part of a outreach group that helps people who are manipulated by the same kinds of evil. The warmth and love my mother has is more than enough to save lives. She saved lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, I believe she can do the same here in the states.

All I ask is that my mother be given a second chance. Please let her see her grandkids outside the walls of a prison. Please let her children and her family hold her while she is free.

God bless you and thank you for reading my letter.

/s/

Arthur Thompson

# EXHIBIT C

The Honorable John D. Bates  
United States District Judge  
United States District Court for the District of Columbia  
333 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington D.C. 20001

Your Honor,

My name is Daniel Thompson, the son of Mariam Thompson. I am a humble man, working hard to improve my health and wellbeing through hard work and dedication to my family, job and country. I am writing this letter to help show you what kind of person my mother is, with confidence in your just and fair judgment in regards to the charges against my mother.

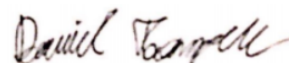
I was utterly shocked to hear of this offence as it is extremely out of her character. She has always been a kind and respectful, law abiding citizen, and made sure to enforce these habits within me. Every memory I have of my mother involves her generosity and kindness towards others. My mother loves cooking food for anyone and everyone. She loved hosting family and friends, and always welcomed company into her home, making sure they were well fed and taken care of. I also remember during high school I would help my mom sell homemade foods at the fair. She was always very successful as she remained kind and courteous with customers and maintained a very positive and engaging interaction.

My mother has always worked to provide for her family. And during her continual linguist and overseas work, she always expressed her pride in being an American. When My father died in the summer after 5<sup>th</sup> grade , she did everything she could to support her family. She would frequently acquire cleaning jobs for businesses, and work her tail off to get all the work done. I would be happy to help her with any task she would need. Unfortunately because of her deep commitment to provide for her family, she was rarely home.

After she has been released, she will find peace and harmony doing her favorite things: Hosting meals for her family and friends. And as my mother has constantly shown her strength and dedication in all areas of life, there is no question in her ability to acquire another job. As I have never known my mother to have malicious intent, her time during this conviction has reinforced her commitment to always doing right. This I know as every conversation we have had, her remorse and sorrow ring true.

I greatly appreciate your time in this matter, and your work in reunifying my mother with her family. I love my mother, and I only wish her great joy, happiness and success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Daniel Thompson". The script is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name "Daniel" being more legible than the last name "Thompson".

Daniel Thompson

# EXHIBIT D



**The Honorable John D. Bates  
United States District Judge  
United States District Court for the District of Columbia  
333 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington D.C. 20001**

Dear Judge Bates,

I am Mariam Thompson's youngest son, Michael. When I was a kid and my father passed away, my mom not only was my hard-working mother but she was also being the father – taking care of all four of her kids and my grandma. My mom is the only family I have left and she has always been there for me when everyone was not.

Mariam goes out of her way to make sure everyone is safe, has been fed, or even if someone just needed to talk. My mother has always been helping her family and friends to the point that she never truly loved herself. All my mom has ever done is helping her family before she even helped herself. Every time I have been on the phone with her, I feel like I'm breaking down. She is the reason why I got sober and she is the reason why I'm going to be graduating from nursing school.

When she was living in Rochester, MN, she was working 5 jobs. One was a housekeeping business she started herself and one was working at the Mayo Clinic. If you ask me if the offense is out of character for her? Yes, it's not what I know my mom to be. I don't know much about the case but I know my mom and she would never want to harm anyone, let alone this country that she loved for my whole life.

Every day of this past year, when I'm not doing homework, I lock myself in my room and just pray and imagine my mom in my arms. Listening to her cry every phone call we have and hearing her ask if her own mother is dead yet has broken me more than the death of my father. I wake up every night screaming, feeling like I can't breathe, knowing that I lost the last person who has ever cared for me, and knowing she won't ever have the chance to hug me or her grandkids.

If anyone has had the chance to get to know her, they will see a mother, a father, a grandma, a sister, and an aunt. They won't see a person capable of harming anyone, they'll see a person who has never been loved, a person who spent her life helping others before herself. I blame myself sometimes, wishing I had been there for her more. Anyone who has known my mother knows she isn't a criminal.

Thank you for your time Judge Bates,

-Michael Thompson

# **EXHIBIT E**

**The Honorable John D. Bates  
United States District Judge  
United States District Court for the District of Columbia  
333 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington D.C. 20001**

Dear Judge Bates,

My name is Kayed Taha and I'm Mariam Thompson's brother. I'm writing this letter to talk about my sister and how a good and wonderful woman she is. What she did is out of character. She is a very good person who will never cause harm to anyone. She spent her whole life working to help her family and help a lot of her friends, and she never asked anything in return. All her family and friends know that she has a big heart and she will never hurt anyone. All the people who met my sister know how honest and what good character she has. Please your honor, give my sister a chance. She is an elderly sick woman. Thank you and god bless you.

Kayed Taha

# **EXHIBIT F**

May 24, 2021

To: The Honorable John D. Bates  
United States District Judge  
United States District Court for the District of Columbia  
333 Constitution Ave, NW  
Washington D. C. 20001

Dear Your Honor,

My name is Sarah Thompson , I am the daughter of Mariam Thompson. I want to write this letter to let you know what kind of person and mother Mariam is to me and to those that love her. My mom means the world to me, she is caring, giving, thoughtful, the most selfless person I know, she is always giving to others and sacrifices much to make sure my brothers, myself and her grandkids are a priority. I want to list several examples of her selfless acts as well how much she cares for others.

1. My Mother's passion for food is one way she expresses her care to others. No one in our family or close circle of friends went without on holidays or any time that there was a need. She would bring food to neighbors who were less fortunate than we were or had an emergency situation. No matter what, people always were welcome at our table at any time. The only complaint anyone had was that she made too much food or was generous to a fault with her care and concern. Everyone loved her and her nickname is Momma Mary.
  - a. One event she enjoyed participating in was Thursday on First. Thursdays on First is a community event where downtown Rochester, MN near the Mayo Clinic, sells crafts, food, there is music, a very fun community event. Mom baked dozen's cookies and some other simple food items to sell for the fun of it. She loved the interaction with the community and had many regulars that visited her stand on Thursdays.
2. We lived in Rochester, Minnesota and so when anyone visited the Mayo Clinic for treatment, or a diagnostic appointment, Mom would open our house to them for a place to stay until they returned home.
3. My Mom made friends very easily because of her charismatic personality, she was down to earth, she was an excellent listener and people always felt comfortable confiding in her. I feel her selfless nature added to all these qualities and people trust her.
4. Besides her passion for cooking, she loved to fish! Mom would come home from leave and one of her favorite activities was to get to the lake and wet line. She loves the water and fishing was a great release, time of quiet reflection. She always made friends easily while fishing and swapping great fishing stories.

5. My Mom loves her grandchildren! Tata (the name the grandkids call her) would spoil them rotten when she was home on leave. Due to her being overseas she always made up for the missed birthdays holidays or special events. Whenever she was home, she loved to spend time with them, she was fun, they sang songs, played, she babysat, and she made sure they had everything they needed.
6. My Mom was employed as an overseas linguist for over 20 years. My Mom was well respected in her field and loved her job and loved the people she worked with. Like everything she put her love, care and selflessness into her job and the people she came in contact with every day. No matter what career path my Mom would take, she would put her all into the job and be a positive example for other employees.
7. My Mom and Dad were married happily until his death from cancer in 2003. Unfortunately, she was involved in a relationship a short time after his death, that was both physically and mentally abusive; the relationship was over within a year to my knowledge. This person was able to take advantage of my mothers' selfless nature and manipulate her; after the divorce, she never dated or wanted to have another relationship with anyone. I was very shocked when I read about the said relationship and allegations regarding her arrest, because this is not something I believe my mother could ever do.

In closing, my mother is very remorseful, feels ashamed, and is very aware of the magnitude of her actions and the effect that it has had on her family, friends, and country. In my heart I know my mother would never be involved in a situation that has caused so much turmoil. My Mother has lost everything, she won't be involved in any of the above mentioned loves, and passions that she has. So, yes, she has learned her lesson. I love and miss her everyday and will until she is able to rejoin her family.

Sincerely,

Sarah Thompson

# EXHIBIT G

May 20, 2021

The Honorable John D. Bates  
United States District Judge  
United States District Court for the District of Columbia  
333 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington S.C. 20001

Dear Judge Bates,

My name is Cristina Adams. I have worked for the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota for 40 years, most currently as a Sleep Technologist. I am a family friend of Mariam Thompson and her son Arthur, having known them both for over 10 years. Mariam is the grandmother to my great niece and great nephew, so we have interacted at many family functions. I have known Mariam to be very generous to her family, providing both financial and emotional support to her children and grandchildren.

Most notably, Mariam was very proud to work with the U.S. military and I was impressed with the importance and sensitive nature of her work. The charges that Mariam has admitted to, are both shocking and egregious. If I didn't know her personally, I'd feel that any person committing such acts against the United States of America should be given the fullest and harshest penalty possible. However, the Mariam I knew would never have done anything to hurt the U.S. She always referenced America as "my country" and was proud to be an overseas representative. I believe that the only possible explanation is that she was coerced and manipulated by evil persons. As far as I know, Mariam was a linguist with top military clearance for many years without incidence. Her crimes are totally out of character for the intelligent and humble woman I knew. I'm positive that Mariam is deeply sorry, and I hope her remorse and advancing age are taken into consideration prior to sentencing.

As you can imagine, this situation has devastated the family and friends of Mariam. To realize Mariam may never know her beautiful grandchildren is absolutely heart wrenching.

It is my sincere hope the court takes this letter into consideration at the time of sentencing. Despite the current case, I still believe Mariam Thompson to be an honorable individual, a valuable member society, and a good human being.

Sincerely,



Cristina Adams





# EXHIBIT H

The Honorable John D. Bates  
United States District Judge  
United States District Court for  
The District of Columbia  
333 Constitution Ave NW,  
Washington D.C. 20001

Dear Judge Bates,

I've worked in my career field for 20 years and I work one-on-one with people so I feel like I am a very good judge of character. I never in 1000 years thought that Mariam would be a part of something like this. Mariam is the grandmother of my niece and nephew. I have known her for almost 10 years period she has been a very thoughtful, caring, giving, loving, and helpful part of our family. We've spent many holidays together and have made lots of great memories. I believe 100% that Mariam was manipulated by a master manipulator. She's a very smart woman, but I do believe she is naive to an extent.

She was always so proud of the work that she did and could never give us a date that she would retire because she loved the work that she did. Even from afar, Mariam helped support her grandchildren financially and made daily phone calls and FaceTime videos with them. The relationship that they had was so cool to witness; the love was so strong and as soon as the situation separated those kids from their grandma, there "Tayta", I could immediately see the change. Thinking about these kids not having their grandma as they grow up is devastating. We all want nothing more than Mariam to be part of the family again. I would bet my life that Mariam would never commit another crime again. I hope you can find it in your heart to give Mariam a lenient sentence.

Thank you so much for your time,

Jessica Adams

# EXHIBIT I

The Honorable John D. Bates  
United States District Judge  
United States District Court for  
The District of Columbia  
333 Constitution Ave NW,  
Washington D.C. 20001

Dear Judge Bates,

May 18, 2021

My name is Lori Adams and I am writing as a character witness for Mariam Thompson. I work as a nurse for Volunteers of America and I have known Mariam for more than 30 years. I am aware of Ms. Thompson's charges of delivering national defense information to a foreign government.

Mariam's son and my son were in a martial arts program together. Mariam, her husband, myself, and other parents would come to observe the class. Mariam loves her family and friends dearly. When I visited at her home she inevitably would offer something that she was cooking in the kitchen. Mariam had a catering business at one time. Her home was comfortable and inviting and I enjoyed our visits.

A little further on how I know her is that her oldest son is engaged to my oldest daughter. Mariam has two grandchildren from them. These children are her world. I know if Mariam could go back in time, she would. This has been a horrific tragedy; a mistake that she wishes she could reverse.

Another opportunity I had to get to know Mariam is through my cleaning company. I sold my company in 2018, but prior to that Mariam worked for me to help me out for a few months while I was short staffed. The name of my company was Cleaning At Your Service. Mariam was a member of my cleaning crew. Her work ethic and detail superseded my expectations even though I only had her on my crew for a short time.

Mariam and I attended family celebrations and holidays. She is an incredibly generous friend, mother, sister, and grandmother. The grandchildren adore her. Celebrations haven't been the same without her.

Mariam knows she made a mistake; a mistake that possible could have jeopardized our national security. I know in my heart that she would not have done this on purpose. The person that she gave information to coerced her into doing so. I feel Mariam did not know what she was getting herself into. If Mariam is allowed a second chance, I know she would not jeopardize losing time with her family again. Mariam didn't share much about her most recent career, but from my observations she was dedicated and seemed to enjoy her work. She's proud to be an American.

In addition, I have never known Mariam to take advantage of anyone or anything in the 30 plus years that I have known her. She is a God-fearing woman and I pray for her freedom and the chance to have her back into the family.

Lori K. Adams

# EXHIBIT J

To: The Honorable John D. Bates  
United States District Judge  
United States District Court  
For The District of Columbia  
333 Constitution Ave NW,  
Washington D.C. 20001

Dear Your Honor,

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Nicole Adams, I am engaged to Mariam Thompson's oldest son Arthur and we have two children together. I have known Mariam for almost a decade. She is one of the most loving, caring and hardworking people I've ever met. This situation has completely devastated my family. To be honest we were blindsided by all of this. I cannot excuse her behavior and I absolutely do not condone what she has pled guilty to. All I know is this is completely out of character for the woman I know and love.

Mariam loves her children and especially loves her grandchildren. Everything in her life revolves around her career and her family. She was always so proud of both. Mariam stayed with us last time she was home and loved every moment with her grandkids. She loved cooking and baking with them. Most of the time it was way too much food. Mariam loved singing to the kids, making popcorn and cuddling while enjoying a movie. She loved rocking my daughter to sleep, that was her favorite. She also provided financially. Mariam paid for both my daughter's preschool, bought diapers monthly for my son and always wanted to put a smile on their faces. My kids miss her, my daughter prays for her every night. This has been extremely difficult as my kids are little ages three and four.

I understand she will be punished, as she should be. I am asking you to please consider some leniency when sentencing Mariam. I have no doubt she will work extremely hard to make this right. She's a good person who has many people that love her and will hold her accountable. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Nicole Adams

# EXHIBIT K



The Honorable John D. Bates  
United States District Judge  
United States District Court for the District of Columbia  
333 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington D.C. 20001

Your Honor,

My name is Robert Heston. I'm writing to you on behalf of Mariam Thompson. I'm a retired military officer having served 31 years on active duty and an additional 23 years as a Department of Defense contractor in the capacity of Senior Intelligence Advisor to various combatant commanders.

My entire career has been in the intelligence career field. I'm a combat veteran and formally retired from the work force. As an intelligence NCO I served three tours in Vietnam as a Forward Air Controller with the 5th Special Forces Group. I worked my way through the ranks, earned a bachelor's degree majoring in history with minors in English Literature and Law Enforcement. I received a commissioned and completed my graduate work for a master's degree in international relations, strategic studies.

Over the next several years following my commissioning, I was directly responsible for leading the intelligence efforts against enemies of the United States such as Libya (Operation Eldorado Canyon), Panama (Operation Just Cause), Iraq (Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm) and directly supporting combatant commanders for five years who were leading coalition forces defending the civilian population in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

As a contractor, I supported the Australian Defence Forces in their defense of East Timor. I directly supported the U.S. Army Corps and Division Commanders and the U.S. State Department in both Afghanistan and Iraq. My last position before formal retirement was as the Senior Intelligence Advisor to the J-2 with the Joint IED Defeat Organization (JIDO).

I provide you this background on myself because it was in one of those capacities that I met and worked with Mariam Thompson. We worked together for one year in Afghanistan. She was filling the position as a cultural advisor at the time. We continued our connection via Facebook until just about a year before I read in the Washington Post (WAP0) that she had been arrested for passing intelligence information to an unauthorized individual.

Mariam, like many of us, worked in a combat zone not because it was what she thrived for but because the pay was better than anything she could earn in her home state. The money she earned went toward the care of her family. We spent a lot of time talking about our children and it was apparent to me that she was dedicated to her son and hoped to provide for him the things she was not able to have growing up. A goal all parents strive for.

I was shocked to read about the circumstances of Mariam's arrest. It was a charge I thought was more than likely falsely claimed. I felt that way when I read the WAPO article because it was so out of character for Mariam and how I saw her handle classified materials and discussions around those who were not privy to the things we were directly involved with.

I have on many occasions in my career, been given the direction to form my own team of individuals whom I believed would be best suited for difficult, highly classified work for an operation. Mariam's name was on my list for one such team. Would she remain there now? Certainly.

I've not talked with Mariam for some time, but I cannot fathom, even after so long, that she has changed so much that I would not trust her to provide me the kind of support needed. I also do not believe she would intentionally jeopardize either the mission or her team members.

My gut instincts tell me that Mariam fell victim to someone, a scheme, a sweet talker, I say this because I have personally witnessed many women I know (a sister, a family friend, co-workers) fall victim to situations like Mariam's.

I know Mariam has been convicted of a crime, but do I think that has changed my view of her or would it exclude her from a classified mission I would lead? No.

Mariam took these cultural positions in the middle east not only for the money but because of her loyalty to her family and the United States. Her numerous accolades from the General Staff should demonstrate her dedication to the mission and her team members.

Her access to classified information is eliminated as an option for her applying for a job in that arena again. I know that this is going to be a millstone around her neck for the rest of her life. Knowing Mariam, however, I cannot believe it would be nothing less than a constant reminder to do better, to move forward, and to live up to the family values she so often shared with me when we worked together.

If this letter can do anything I would hope that it would serve to keep Mariam from prison to give her a second chance to be with her family and start over.

Respectfully,

Robert J. Heston

# EXHIBIT L

The Honorable John D. Bates  
United States District Judge  
United States District Court for the District of Columbia  
333 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington D.C. 20001

Your Honor,

My name is Catherine L. Haverty. I am a retired Army Nurse. I served in the U.S. Army as a nurse for 22 years and 7 months before retiring in 2012 with the rank of Major. I am aware of the conviction of Mariam Thompson for delivering national defense information to aid a foreign government. I am shocked that Mariam would ever commit any crime let alone a crime of this magnitude. I have always considered her to be extremely honest and trustworthy, and this action seems totally out of character for her.

I was deployed to Forward Operating Base Kalsu in the Southern Baghdad Province from April 2007 until April 2008. I was the medical officer on an Embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team with Civil Affairs, 82nd Airborne Division. My responsibility on this team was to provide medical care to Iraqi women and children. Mariam was the interpreter on our team and we traveled outside the wire on many occasions. These missions were called Civil Medical Engagements and we usually treated one to two hundred patients a day.

This was a very difficult time for myself as well as Miriam, The wartime environment was difficult for everyone and Mariam was no exception, however, she was always cheerful and upbeat at all times and always remained calm no matter the circumstance. We witnessed many deaths and war casualties during the year, and I always felt safe when Maraim accompanied me on these missions. She was excellent at performing any task whether it was interpreting for the sick and injured women and children or performing first aid and nursing duties as assigned.

I can honestly say without a doubt that Mariam is the kindest, most trustworthy person that I know. She will gladly help anyone. She loves her family dearly and has taken very good care of them for many years. I also know that Mariam is a woman of faith and her belief in God is without reproach, she attended services at the Kalsu Chapel whenever possible.

I recall a mission when one of our vehicles was by an IED and there were many fatalities, called KIA'S that day. Mariam volunteered to assist with the retrieval of the soldier's remains to be sent to their families at home. This was one of the many examples of Mariam's unselfishness and willingness to go beyond and above what was expected of her.

I wish Mariam the best and am requesting leniency on her behalf.

/s/

Catherine Haverty

# EXHIBIT M



HEADQUARTERS  
International Security Assistance Force/  
United States Forces - Afghanistan  
Kabul, Afghanistan  
APO AE 09356



COMISAF

6 November 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Letter of Endorsement

1. I am pleased to strongly recommend Ms. Mariam "Mary" Thompson for positions of increased responsibility as a Human Terrain Analyst or Cultural Advisor.
2. Mary served as an interpreter and translator in Iraq for more than three years, participating in hundreds of combat patrols to assist Coalition leaders in their engagements with key Iraqi leaders. During that time, she spent nearly every day immersed in Iraqi culture. Her willingness to embrace and ability to quickly learn the Iraqi culture was an important catalyst in the progress of our mission there.
3. While serving in Afghanistan at the International Security Assistance Force headquarters, Mary provided essential information to the theatre-level command which affected policy and operations throughout the country. Her insightful and accurate preparation and review of documents for key leaders' engagements was invaluable. Mary truly knows her craft.
4. A superb example of integrity, loyalty, and professionalism, Mary is more than capable of serving as a leader of a Human Terrain Team or as a Cultural Advisor. I recommend her selection for one of these positions in the strongest possible terms.
5. If you have any questions, please contact me at [david.petraeus@us.army.mil](mailto:david.petraeus@us.army.mil).

David H. Petraeus  
General, United States Army  
Commander  
International Security Assistance Force/  
United States Forces Afghanistan

# EXHIBIT N





REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
HEADQUARTERS, 1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION, 76<sup>TH</sup> FIELD ARTILLERY  
4<sup>TH</sup> BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM, 3D INFANTRY DIVISION (MND-C)  
FOB KALSU, IRAQ APO AE 09312

October 15, 2008

Lieutenant Colonel Dane A. Barksdale  
Commander  
1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 76<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment  
Forward Operating Base Kalsu, Iraq APO AE 09312

Mariam (Mary) Thompson has been working as a linguist in a region intersected by three provinces: the Babil, the Baghdad, and the Wasit province of Iraq for nearly three years and has personally worked as my linguist for a year. During this past year, Mary has accompanied me on over 300 patrols throughout our area of operations. She has also been by my side during numerous operations as we walked alongside the Soldiers conducting the operations. Mary is an outstanding professional that has an intuitive ability to relate to people. Her abilities have been critical to our mission success and diplomatic relations between local tribal and political leaders.

The Iraqi security forces and tribal leaders respect Mary and feel free to contact her 24 hours a day / seven days a week, in resolving critical issues. Her rapport with security and tribal leaders has mended and developed relationships that have prevented key fundamental issues boiling into sectarian violence. She is very well knowledgeable in the Iraqi people and their culture. Mary always sends appropriate well wishes and condolences on my behalf on her own initiative; her actions have been very helpful in maintaining established relationships and in establishing a new ones.

Mary is an invaluable asset to our organization and has established remarkable relationships with key political, security force, and tribal leaders in the Babil Province. Her employment would bring instant credibility to any organization. Her honesty is above reproach; her frank and candid nature is an admired trait honored by the leaders of our organization and by the Iraqi people. Mary has a huge heart and is always trying to help people in need. She cares very much for my Soldiers and goes above and beyond normal expectations. Mary loves America and promotes the American image of a strong woman to these people.

Mary is an invaluable asset to my organization and will contribute greatly to any organization. I truly believe her role has had a direct impact in saving the lives of my Soldiers. Fortunately, we have not lost any Soldiers despite having the largest battalion Area of Operations spread across three provinces. The peoples' trust in Mary has aided in the security of the Iraqi populous and has helped me in preventing key fundamental issues from becoming acts of violence. Any organization would be fortunate to gain Mary as a member.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dane A. Barksdale", is located below the text.

Dane A. Barksdale  
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army  
Commander, 1-76 Field Artillery Regiment



# EXHIBIT O

June 2, 2021

The Honorable John D. Bates  
United States District Judge  
United States District Court for the District of Columbia  
333 Constitution Ave, NW  
Washington D.C. 20001

Dear Judge Bates,

I am writing to support Mariam Thompson who has been my friend for over 30 years.

We met Mariam when she was an interpreter for one of my husband's long-term patients at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN. A personal relationship developed and over the years when she lived here in Rochester we visited each other's homes, celebrated family events, and enjoyed learning about each other's cultures. Their family had a lot to learn about living in Minnesota but Mariam handled it with humor and grace. We often laughed about times like when Mariam's kids showed up to accompany our kids for trick-or-treating, but with Easter baskets in hand!

We supported Mariam at the time of her husband's death from brain cancer. She was left with four young children to support. Those years she struggled with severing of ties with the Saudis for whom she had worked for years, broken relationships with her family back in Lebanon, and with trying to find jobs that would help support her family.

Hand work and ingenuity, combined with a lively sense of humor, seemed to be trademarks of her personality. We recall times like helping her bake and sell hundreds of cookies each week for the Farmer's Market here in Rochester. She gained a reputation for remembering her customers and happily interacting with them. Everyone remembered Mariam.

Mariam showed exceptional kindness and generosity to our family over many years. She was especially good at conversing with my aging parents and would bring them small gifts and laughter. My children knew her as a supportive friend. After she began government work a few years ago we did not see her often. But when she was home on leave she expressed that she was proud and honored to be serving. She didn't tell us much about those times, but she did tell how she loved to cook for the service men & women on her days off. She spoke of them fondly and was proud of the fact that they called her "Mama Mary".

After knowing and trusting Mariam for many years, through situations both stressful and happy, we are stunned by her present situation and are convinced the events which led to this were orchestrated by

people seeking to take advantage of her. Mariam possesses grit and determination, but she also has seen tragedy and very difficult times. She was worn down and tired. I miss her and hope for a time when she can come back to Rochester.

Sincerely,  
Jon Dale

# EXHIBIT P

June 7, 2021

**The Honorable John D. Bates  
United States District Judge  
United States District Court for the District of Columbia  
333 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington D.C. 2001**

**Your Honor,**

I am writing on behalf of my long time friend, Mariam Thompson, as you consider her sentencing for her confessed crime. Our relationship extends over 30 years and has been from several different perspectives. I am now a retired physician, a general internist, and emeritus Associate Professor of Medicine at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. I first met Mariam when I cared for her employer at that time, a member of the Saudi Royal Family. I also provided health care to Mariam, her deceased husband, and her children. My family was readily embraced by Mariam and we became friends, visiting often, sharing food, and thoughtful conversations. We supported her through the tragedy of her husband's illness from brain cancer and the hardships left by his death as she raised her four children. We admired her dedication to her children, her conversion to Christianity and her children attending a private Lutheran school for their education at considerable expense to her.

I felt I knew her well and thus I was shocked and saddened to hear what she has confessed to doing. She was extremely proud when she became a citizen of the United States. Although she was quite limited in what she said about her work as a contracted translator in Iraq and Afghanistan, it was clear she was proud of her work with the United States military, expressed affection for the soldiers she lived with, and shared letters of commendation from General David Petraus and other high ranking officers she interacted with. From those letters and her brief comments, I sensed that she willingly went above and beyond to respond to requests of the military for her skilled services.

I have always been impressed by Mariam's resilience to challenges presented to her and her work ethic to accomplish the new goals she set for herself. Given her need to support her family she often worked multiple jobs. But she appeared to be dedicated to those jobs, no matter what they were, and determined to do the best she could at them. One of them was supervising physically and developmentally disabled adults in cleaning hotel rooms. She would describe with kindness and respect how she worked directly with them, helping them complete their tasks and increasing their sense of self-worth and accomplishment. She has always been generous to our family with her time and the genuine affection and concern for my children and their lives. Everyone I have had contact with who also have known Mariam have expressed the same feelings generated by their interactions with her: warm, sincere, kind, generous, hard working, dedicated, full of life, energy, and ambition.

We have not seen her as much in these later years given her work schedule and then her time overseas, but I never sensed a change in her personality that would have hinted at what she came to do. Given her previous responses to adversity, once she has completed the sentence for the offense she has committed, I believe she will once again move on. She has always liked to be busy and help others, and I believe she will quickly return to a job that is meaningful to her and to society. I look forward to that time and re-establishing my relationship with her.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lowell C. Dale". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "C".

**Lowell C. Dale, MD**