

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.

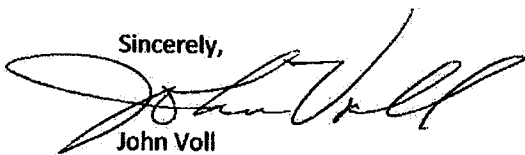
I am a professor of Islamic history at Georgetown University, where I have been on the Core Faculty of the School of Foreign Service since 1995. Before that, I was in the History Department of the University of New Hampshire for thirty years. I teach modern Islamic history and also serve as a consultant 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