

By: Maria Mourad

Rehab Amer still lives the nightmare of her children being taken away from her arms 21 years ago. She's no longer striving for the truth to prove her innocence or fighting to get her kids back. She wants to ensure that no mother goes through her pain.

The story of Mrs. Amer is a story of a mother's heart that was torn apart a million times a day for 21 years. It's a story of an infant that was deprived of her mother's milk at one day old and two children whose innocence was stripped away.

Mrs. Amer was accused of killing her 2-year old son, Samier Amer, in 1985, after he hit his head in a bath tub and caused her to lose custody of her three remaining children. She was charged with second degree murder and was acquitted by a jury in 1986. The state refused to return the children to their parents due to the unknown cause of death and they were kept in foster homes.

The Amer children still live in every corner of the Amers' house, which Rehab calls the "museum". On the walls of each room are pictures of a family that was forever destroyed. Artifacts such as their first clothes, first shoe, and their drawings are hanged on the walls. Their beds are neatly done. Their bears, their musical toys, their dolls and their piano are all there. "Zinebe's foster mother gave this to me after Zinebe was taken away from her at 3 1/2 years kicking and screaming to be placed with her siblings at the Stampers'," Mrs. Amer said, holding Zinebe's favorite doll. "I use their bedroom as my prayer room," she continued.

Her bedroom is filled with photo memories of her children. In one golden frame, there is a collection of shots with the kids during her visits to the foster home. "I saw my kids an hour a week for three years, after which my visits were terminated," Mrs. Amer cried. "I refused to plead guilty and lie about killing my son to cover up the mistakes of Oakwood hospital and the state."

Mrs. Amer, 45, graduated in 1985 from Henry Ford Community College with a degree in nursing. At the time of the accident, she was working at a doctor's office in Dearborn and quit as soon as her son, Samier, died. "My family became my career," Mrs. Amer said. She was only 20.

Due to the allegations against her by medical doctors, the Michigan State Department of Social Services now called the Family Independence Agency, declared Amer and her husband, Ahmed, to be unfit parents in 1989. They subsequently lost custody of their three remaining children, son Mohammed Ali, now Adam Lee, and daughters Suehier and Zinebe, now Suzanne Brook and Zine Rochelle.

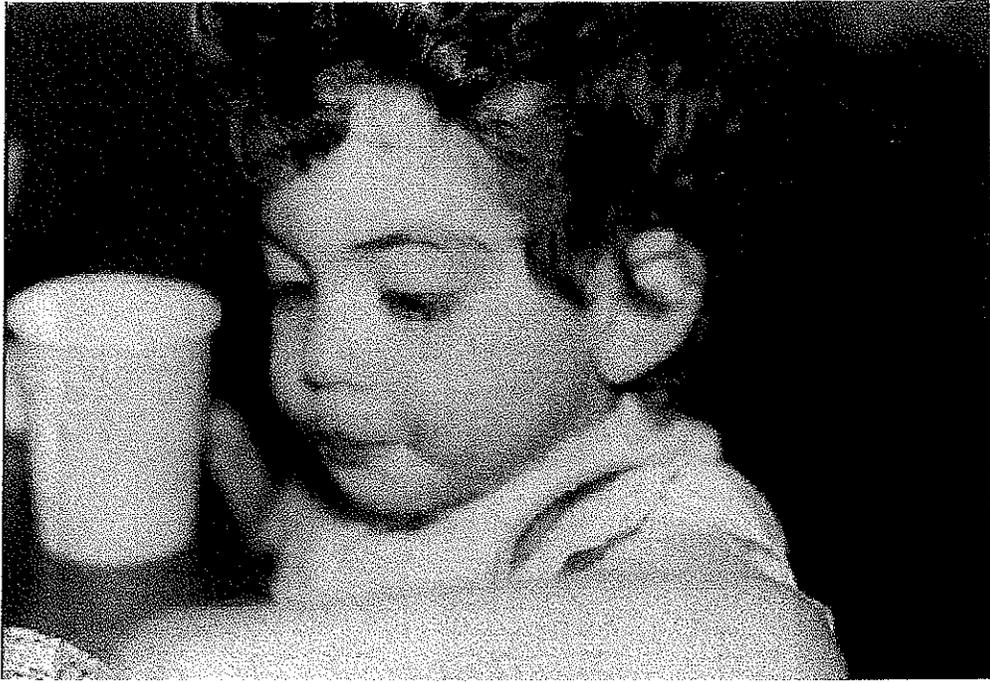
"My children being taken away from my arms is a never ending nightmare," said Mrs. Amer. "It's as if someone ripped your heart apart and said your heart is not for you to keep anymore."



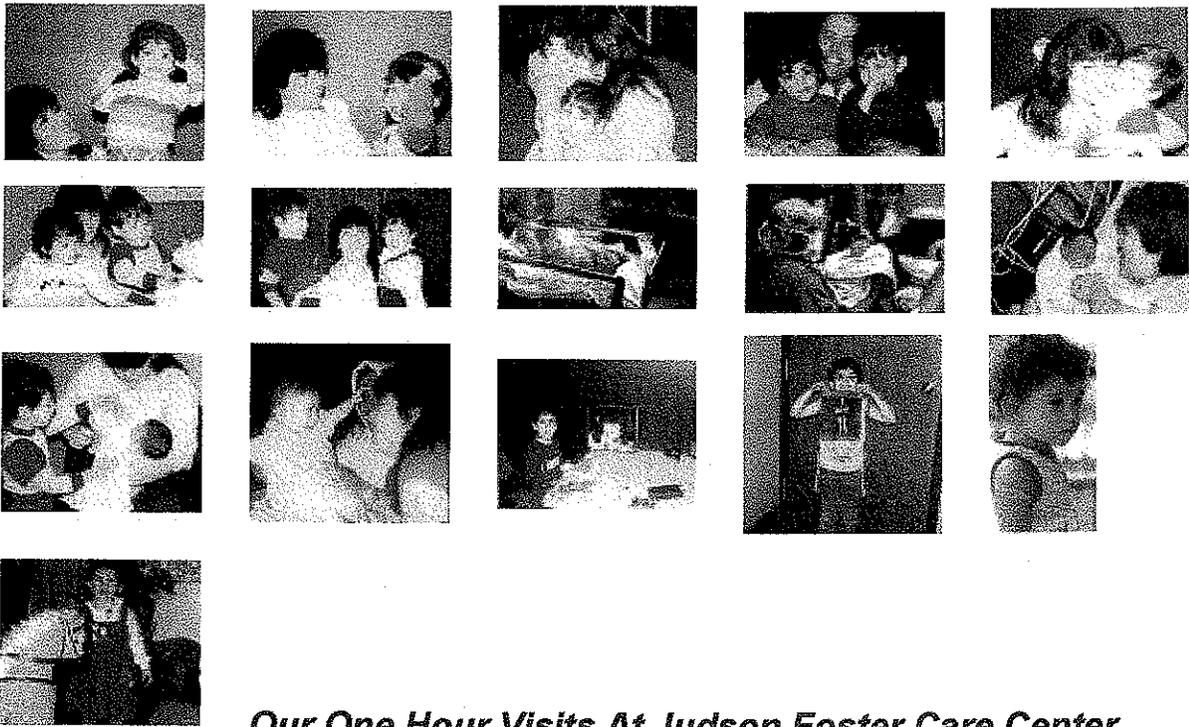
Parents Crying Out, Justice for All,

Visit our photo album to learn more about the injustices that tore our family apart and how Samier's Cries from the Grave revealed the truth.





Our Kids, at the Judson Center, with markings on their arms and faces.



Our One Hour Visits At Judson Foster Care Center

ADC-MI Judges Night, Justice and Compassion-American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee

ADC-MI Judges Night, Justice and Compassion



Although it has been said that it is the spirit of law and not its form that are important, ADC-Michigan's 4th Annual Judges Night Reception proved that it is actually compassion, understanding and the willingness to listen that are truly the pulse of justice; qualities that the two awardees not only possess, but exemplify.

Tuesday night's event honored Hon. Victoria A. Roberts - United States District Court and Hon. Edward M. Thomas - Wayne County Circuit Court for their passion and unwavering dedication to justice for all. Judge Roberts and Judge Thomas have both transformed their every day courtroom roles into leadership positions that have made them true "Guardians of Justice."

Judge Roberts' commendable work to give the disenfranchised equal footing within the legal system has been heralded as landmark as her steadfast commitment to justice for the poor and disadvantaged has afforded her many great honors in her career, including the Champion of Justice Award and the Roberts P. Hudson Award.

With great resolve and appreciation, Judge Roberts accepted her award, thanking her family and friends who were also in attendance. She saluted the Arab American community in the audience and praised ADC-Michigan for their efforts in the community and noted that it is this work that is a constant reminder of her tireless commitment to justice and civil rights.

The evening took a somber turn when the Amer family of Dearborn came to the podium to thank Judge Thomas for his courageous ruling against an injustice that had haunted them for nearly 20 years. As the audience stood to welcome Mrs. Rehab Amer, she began to speak softly while stifling her tears through the agonizing memories of the death of her son and the court battle that ensued. Through Judge Thomas' ruling that her son's death was in fact accidental, she and her husband have been absolved of any wrong doing. Although it may be too late to connect with the children that were taken by the state year's ago and although justice was delayed, it was certainly not denied when she entered Judge Thomas' courtroom.

"Thank you Judge Thomas for hearing the cries of my baby," she said while weeping. "Thank you Judge Thomas for setting my family free."

Mrs. Amer's tears, Judge Thomas said, were always met with his own each time she entered his courtroom, however, he never let her see him cry; instead he waited until after the proceedings. However at Judges Night, he took the stage, choking-up as he spoke of the Amer family and the honor of being awarded by ADC. His tears flowed freely as he revealed a side of the judicial system that is normally relegated to the judge's chambers. He spoke of his failed run for the Michigan Supreme Court and his inherent belief that "everything happens for a reason." Had he been elected, Judge Thomas would not have presided over the case and the Amer family may not have been "set free."

Through the kind words of Judge Thomas and Judge Roberts, ADC-Michigan's 4th Annual Judges Night Reception was a true celebration of the judicial systems heart and compassion, for "the only true principle for humanity is justice; and justice to the feeble is protection and kindness."

By Rana Elmir

Director of Programs & Outreach

ADC-Michigan

Petition in Support of the "Amer Act" HB 4118

On behalf of Ahmed and Rehab Amer, and all who are Victims of False Accusation and Lost their precious Children.

I was accused of killing my own son even though I was acquitted by Jury in 1986. I still lost my kids because I didn't admit that I killed my son, my husband lost his rights because he supported me. It took the Cries of my Baby of whom I was accused of Killing to Cry Out from the Grave for us to be heard, however twenty years too late to get my three kids back, who have been brainwashed to believe that God Loved them to have removed them from us. So please look at the Proposed "Amer Act" and make it into law so what happened to us doesn't happen to others. Our hearts are bleeding for so many parents and children out there crying our cries. The cries of the innocent are not being heard. Let the Amer Family's pain and suffering be the last and our Beloved Son Samier's Cries from the Grave would never be forgotten so it could prevent another Tragedy from happening.

We believe at first hand and speaking for lot of families who lost their children Unjustly, if you and others look into the hearts of the innocents you all can see that the Proposed "Amer Act" is a good Act to be taken seriously and made into a Law where a Government Employee who fails to protect children should be held accountable for not doing their job. Recall what happen to Ricky Holland, who got killed while in the care of foster/adoptive parents, and to my kids who were abused in foster care and the only thing the case worker and her supervisor had to say was "at least they are still alive". What is it going to take for someone to take it seriously?? Must it be the death of so many innocent children and the grieving of so many innocent families? With the "Amer Act," there is protection and set guidelines, which if not met requires that the person or persons are held accountable.

To end this petition, we would like to thank the House Committee for hearing our cries when we testified before them on March of 2005, and Representative Polidori, Representative Chairman Stahl for giving their recent consideration, and The Times-Herald Newspaper and reporter Andrew DerVartanian for publishing the article "Foster Care Bill Has Roots Here: Parents of Famous Foster Care Case Look to Prevent Similar Occurrences," on April 19, 2006.

Although this proposed Act has gotten some recent consideration from the aforementioned, more support is needed to seek Justice for All, and protect our God Given Rights, and to protect our precious gifts from abuse and getting killed at the hands of those who make their own laws and are not held accountable. These are not the laws of God, only God has the power to give and take life and we cannot sit and place blame or lose sight of the facts that the innocent parents and families are being destroyed and cries are not being heard. To continue on this path results in the destruction of more families and the occurrence of additional tragedies like the Ricky Holland's Murder and the tragedy that our family has endured.

In God's will, and with your voices as support we can put an end to this unnecessary destruction of innocent families and children from being torn apart unjustly. Please show your support for the "Amer Act" and to protect all of our God Given Rights to raise our own children by commenting on this site, and if you would like leave your name and e-mail address. It would be very much appreciated, as we need to show our support to the legislator. The Amer Family has gotten worldwide media coverage concerning their family's injustice, you can find further information at www.injusticebusters.com/05/Amer_Rehab.shtml

May you and your family be always protected and guided by the Almighty's Mercies through out all of your lives, may your kids and grand kids never Cry my Children's Cries and Pray that No Parent feels and lives our pain and sorrows.

Parents Crying Out, Justice For All.
Sincerely,

Ahmed and Rehab Amer

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