

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

UNITED STATES

v.

Docket No.: 13-MJ-02162

ROBEL PHILLIPOS

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF ROBEL PHILLIPOS' REQUEST FOR  
RELEASE ON CONDITIONS

I, Genet Bekele, state and depose as follows:

1. I am Robel Phillipos's mother. I am a United States citizen.
2. I reside in Cambridge, Massachusetts. I have lived in Massachusetts since 1981.
3. I have an Associate's Degree from Roxbury Community College, a B.S. in Political Science from Northeastern University, and a Master's Degree in Social Work from Boston University.
4. I am currently a domestic violence specialist for a service agency. Previously, I was a protective services social worker, a program director of a domestic violence shelter, and a counselor for immigrant refugees for many years.
5. My son, Robel, was born on October 18, 1993 in Boston, Massachusetts. I raised him as a single mother, working two jobs. Despite having worked two jobs, I have always been an involved parent in Robel's life since he was young. I raised him with Christian values and taught him the value of working hard. I attended all teacher conferences, chaperoned many of his field trips, and made sure he did his homework every night.
6. With every opportunity he had, Robel has always tried to make things easier on me. He

was very cognizant of the hard work that I had to put in being a single parent. Robel helped around the house by doing the dishes and the laundry, running errands such as going to the grocery store, and showing his appreciation in little ways.

7. Robel is very close with our family including my siblings, nieces and nephews. Being a single mother, our extended family's presence and support were always important to us. Our extended family, which includes my cousins and their children, are very close to us as well. We have annual family reunions, which between 60 to 70 family members attend.
8. Everyone knows Robel as being a compassionate, thoughtful, and sociable person. He was always been respectful toward his teachers and very friendly with his classmates. He displays the same attitudes toward our neighbors and everyone he encountered. He was well liked by everyone I know including his teachers and his classmates. Robel has friends from diverse backgrounds and was accepting of everyone he encountered. He has always been an extremely friendly, mild-mannered and very peaceful kid who respects his elders.
9. Growing up in Cambridge, Robel was a part of various community programs. Since at a young age, Robel always talked about how he enjoyed community work. As an example, Robel participated in the Cambridge Mayor's Program starting when he was about 14 years old. He was a part of this program for several years being assigned to various community-centered organizations in Cambridge. Robel's responsibilities varied between administrative tasks to participating in skills and leadership trainings to tutoring younger students in math. Also, Robel was part of the Cambridge Kid's Council after being appointed by the Cambridge City Manager in 2010. In this program, Robel met with city

officials to address concerns for the youth in the city. Robel also was invited to attend the National League of Cities Convention in 2010 and 2011.

10. Robel graduated from Cambridge Rindge and Latin School in 2011. He was an Honor Roll student during his freshman and sophomore years of high school. Robel attended UMass Dartmouth beginning fall of 2011. Given our close relationship, I visited him very often and spoke to him on the phone at least once every two days. Robel decided after this past fall semester to take a Semester off from school. Beginning December of 2012, Robel moved back into our apartment and had been living with me. Robel was in the process of securing an internship when he was detained.
11. As a person of Ethiopian decent living in Boston, I, and my family members living in the area, look forward to the Boston Marathon every year. It is an event we celebrate each year cheering on TV or at the sidelines as Ethiopian athletes cross the finish line.
12. When the devastating event took place on April 15, we mourned for those who lost their lives and prayed for the injured.
13. My son wants nothing more than the opportunity to clear his name. My whole family is in complete shock over the accusation made against him. We are all in disbelief that this is actually happening to our family.
14. I love my son unconditionally as does the rest of our family. I am willing to do whatever I can to support my son as he struggles to deal with this ordeal. The whole family is committed to helping him fight the charge filed against him.
15. I have no doubt that my son will abide by any condition of release the Court may impose and my family is willing to assist him to comply with each and every condition.

Signed under the pains and penalties of perjury, this 2 day of May 2013.

  
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Genet Bekele