

Taryanne Rahman
Coffee Creek Correctional Facility

AS A BLACK muslim, in prison where
I have three strikes... (one, I'm BLACK,
two. I'm muslim, three. I'm female) Every-
day is a struggle. As if it isn't enough
to just take my freedom, they want
to take my dreams, my hope, and
any faith I may still have. they
refuse to give me pork substitutes
or anything resembling a HALAL
diet. they deny me the right to
cover my hair outside of my
cell, and each year ramadan is
treated like some joke, as we are
given outdated & old food, usually
the prisons old leftovers.

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-2-

no variety & the servings are minimal. the islamic chaplain is an actual employee of ODOC and always takes her vacation during Ramadan, & is therefore unavailable to correct any problems that may arise. sometimes I feel like setting it off up in here, but... then what?! Nah... one day. I will be on the other side of these gates, and I won't forget the struggle and how real it is. one day, I will make a difference.