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CA: This Periodic Review Board is being conducted at 0913 hours on April 24, 2018, with regard to the following detainee: Uthman Abdul al-Rahim Muhammad Uthman, ISN 027.

As a reminder, the unclassified portions of these proceedings are being recorded for the purpose of generating a transcript to be posted on the PRS website.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

CA: Representatives from the following agencies are present and are members of the Board:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE;

DEPARTMENT OF STATE;

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE;

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY;

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE; and the

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN of the JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF.

The following personnel are also present:

LEGAL ADVISOR TO THE BOARD;

CASE ADMINISTRATORS;

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE;

PRIVATE COUNSEL;

TWO TRANSLATORS;

THE DETAINEE; and a

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SECURITY OFFICER.

TRANS 1: **[TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]**

CA: The detainee's Personal Representative, Private Counsel, the detainee, and one translator are located at the detention facility, U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. They are attending via video teleconference and the detainee waived translation of the unclassified summary and the Personal Representative's opening statements. These documents have been posted to the Periodic Review Secretariat website. This session is being observed by foreign and national local media and non-governmental organizations.

TRANS 1: **[TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]**

PM: This Board is being convened to determine whether continued law of war detention is warranted for Uthman [Abd] al-Rahim Muhammad Uthman, ISN 27, to protect against a continuing significant threat to the security of the United States. From here on forward, we will refer to the detainee as Uthman. This session of the hearing is unclassified.

TRANS 1: **[TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]**

PM: Uthman, this is your Periodic Review Board to determine whether continued law of war detention is warranted in your case. Continued law of war detention will be warranted if it is necessary to protect against a continuing significant threat to the national

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security of the United States. The focus of this hearing is on the threat you may pose to the United States and its interests if transferred or released from U.S. custody. It is not on the lawfulness of your detention.

TRANS 1: **[TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]**

PM: Personal Representative and Private Counsel are your representatives to assist you during this process. Finally, the translators ensure that everyone understands your statements and that you understand what is being said during this hearing.

TRANS 1: **[TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]**

PM: Personal Representative and Private Counsel, has the detainee had an opportunity to review the unclassified summary?

TRANS 1: **[TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]**

PR: Yes, sir.

PM: Thank you. I will now read the unclassified summary. Uthman [Abd] al-Rahim Muhammad Uthman, ISN 27, left Yemen to participate in jihad in Afghanistan and later became a bodyguard for Usama bin Laden. He fought at Tora Bora probably against Coalition Forces and was detained in December 2001 while trying to flee to Pakistan. He was repeatedly [...] he has repeatedly denied being a part of al-Qa'ida or Bin Ladin bodyguard.

Do the personal representative or private counsel wish to make an unclassified opening statement at this time?

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TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR: Yes, sir.

PM: I would like to remind all participants that any information shared at this time must be unclassified. If there is a concern about the classification of the information I will indicate such and will stop the proceedings until we resolve the issue. Has the detainee had the opportunity to review your statements?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: Personal Representative, you may now proceed.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen of the Board. Thank you for this opportunity to appear before you on behalf of Uthman. We are here today to answer your questions in a bid to secure your approval for his release and repatriation. I have been Uthman's Personal Representative for over a year. We have had many conversations during this time and he has been forthright and open. He does not sugarcoat his activities or his reasons for traveling to Afghanistan. Uthman was not candid during his first board [...] first board appearance due to fear, language barriers and a general lack of trust or understanding. During his second appearance, Uthman was candid and contrite. Today he will speak to how his mindset and beliefs have changed during his time in detainment.

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I believe that Uthman is a good candidate for release/repatriation. He has shown no ill-will or anti-American sentiments during my time with him. He remains positive and hopeful about the future. He is cheerful and pleasant and tries to see the silver lining in all situations.

Uthman has demonstrated that he is open-minded and willing to change. He remains hopeful that this PRB process will lead to his release from Guantanamo. He will take with him the knowledge that he has learned about different cultures and the evolved role women play in today's society. Prior to detention, Uthman had no dealing with females who were not family members and had little interaction with people of other cultures or religions. While in Guantanamo, Uthman has had the opportunity to interact with detainees from all over the world, and male and female guard force and military personnel, and he has learned a lot from them.

Uthman has several ideas for a small business to support himself upon his release. Reprieve has offered support through their Life After GTMO Program. Uthman's family in Yemen has committed to support him as much as possible, and he also has relatives in Saudi Arabia who are willing to assist. Uthman is excited about the opportunities that await him. While he will miss his home in Little Aden and his family members there if he is not repatriated, Uthman

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knows that he will be lucky to be given a new start and a chance to build a future free from war and unrest.

Thank you for this opportunity. Uthman, Mr. Remes, and I are standing by to answer your questions.

PM: Thank you. Since there is no PC statement this morning, the Board Members may reserve questions until detainee and witness statements have been presented in their entirety. Does anyone have a question at this particular time?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: With no questions, this concludes this portion of the hearing. I ask that all remain seated until further instructed by the Case Administrator.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

CA: We will take a 10-minute recess to prepare for the remaining sessions.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

[The public session closed at 0924, 24 April 2018.]

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ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYM KEY

BM: BOARD MEMBER
CA: CASE ADMINISTRATOR
DET: DETAINEE
PM: PRESIDING MEMBER
PR: PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
PC: PRIVATE COUNSEL
TRANS 1: TRANSLATOR ONE (LOCATED AT PRS HQ)
TRANS 2: TRANSLATOR TWO (LOCATED AT GUANTANAMO BAY)

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