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CA: This periodic review board is being conducted at 0903 hours on 19 January 2016, at the Periodic Review Secretariat headquarters, with regard to the following detainee: Majid Mahmud Abdu Ahmed, ISN 41.

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,

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF.

The following personnel are also present:

LEGAL ADVISOR TO THE BOARD;

CASE ADMINISTRATORS;

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES;

PRIVATE COUNSEL;

TWO TRANSLATORS;



**THE DETAINEE; AND,  
SECURITY OFFICER.**

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

CA: The detainee's personal representatives, 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. This session is being observed by foreign, national, and local media; foreign government officials; and representatives from non-governmental organizations.

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

PM: Good morning. Does the detainee wish to waive translation of the entire hearing, to include all written statements provided by the personal representatives, the private counsel, and the detainee?

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

PR 1: No, Sir. The detainee only wishes to waive translation of the personal representative and private counsel statements.

TRANS 2: **[TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]**

PM: This Board is called to order. This Board is convened to determine whether continued law of war detention is warranted for Majid Mahmud Abdu Ahmed, ISN 41, in order to protect against a continuing significant threat to the security of the United States.



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From here on forward, we will refer to the detainee as Majid. This periodic review board hearing session is unclassified.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: Majid, this is your periodic review board to determine whether continued law of war detention is warranted in your case. Your continued law of war detention will be warranted if such detention is necessary to protect against a continuing significant threat to the national 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: The personal representatives 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 here during this hearing.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: Personal representatives and private counsel, has the detainee had an opportunity to review the unclassified summary?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR 1: Yes, Sir.

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]



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PM: I will now read the unclassified summary. Majid Mahmud Abdu Ahmed, ISN 41 was recruited to fight for the Taliban while attending al-Furqan Institute in Yemen in 1999 and received basic and probably specialized combat training in Afghanistan from al-Qaeda. He fought on the front lines, became a bodyguard for Usama Bin Ladin in August 2001, and was captured by... with 30 other al-Qaeda affiliated individuals by Pakistani authorities on 15 December 2001 following the Battle of Tora Bora. Majid has been relatively compliant during this time... during his time at Guantanamo, although he has been largely uncooperative with interrogators. In early interviews, Majid would either disengage or provide fabricated stories, including claiming that he had traveled to Afghanistan for peaceful purposes. Later, he recanted and told interviewers that he had trained and fought with the Taliban, but still provided information of minimal value probably to gain incentive items.

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

PM: We assess Majid still harbors anti-U.S. sentiments and holds conservative Islamic views that may make transfer and reintegration to many countries difficult. He maintains contact with multiple former Guantanamo detainees, and has received letters from one former detainee known to have reengaged in terrorist activities, but with whom we assess Majid does not have a close relationship.



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Other than those former detainees, Majid only maintains communication with family members, none of whom appear to have any involvement in terrorist activity. We assess Majid would be less likely to re-engage if transferred to a Muslim country, and he would probably... would prefer Yemen to be close to his family.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: Do the personal representatives and private counsel wish to make unclassified opening statements at this time?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR 1: Yes, Sir.

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

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 the proceedings will stop until the classification issue is resolved.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: Has the detainee had the opportunity to review the PR's and PC's opening statement?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR 1: Yes, Sir.

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]



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PM: Therefore, personal representatives you may proceed with your opening statements.

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

PR 1: Good morning ladies and gentlemen of the Board. We are the Personal Representatives of Majid Mahmud Abdu Ahmed. We'll be assisting Mr. Ahmed this morning with his case, aided by Mr. David Remes.

Mr. Ahmed has been overjoyed and eager to participate in the periodic review process. He has maintained a record of perfect attendance for meetings with his personal representatives and counsel. We were pleased by Mr. Ahmed's youthful appearance when we first met with him, despite spending the last 14 years of detention at Guantanamo Bay. This ascribes to the very young age at which he was recruited to go to Afghanistan.

We were favorably impressed by Mr. Ahmed's candor. He has proven forthright and honest in his interactions with us. He discussed his path to Afghanistan from his home in Yemen to his eventual capture with us in a clear manner. Mr. Ahmed has proven to be engaging and extremely polite throughout his interactions and discussions with us. He is quick with a smile and exudes a warm personality.



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He has taken advantage of all opportunities for education and personal enrichment while detained at Guantanamo. These opportunities include courses in mathematics, languages, health and art. We have provided examples of his coursework in his case submission.

Later, Mr. Ahmed will discuss both his past life and his desire for a better life for himself in the future. We are confident that Mr. Ahmed's desire to pursue a better way of life if transferred from Guantanamo is genuine. He is open to transfer to any country, but would prefer an Arabic speaking country if possible.

Thank you for your time and attention. We are pleased to answer any questions you have throughout this proceeding.

PM: Thank you. Private Counsel, you may proceed with your opening statement.

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

PC: Good morning. I am David Remes, private counsel for Majid Mahmud Abdu Ahmed, ISN 41. I have represented Majid in his habeas case since July 2004, and have met with him dozens of times. In May 2005, I met Majid's family, and I have met Majid's father, a retired oil company refinery worker, several times since.

Majid is outgoing and liked by other detainees. He is also compliant. Majid was held in the camp for the most compliant



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detainees, where detainees enjoyed communal living and personal freedom long before other detainees were extended these privileges. Majid has taken advantage of educational opportunities here, receiving high marks, and he is serious about continuing his education after he is released.

Majid prefers to be resettled in an Arabic speaking Muslim country, but he is willing to go to any country that the United States deems appropriate. He is willing to participate in rehabilitation and reintegration programs, and to accept such security conditions as the United States deems appropriate. As mentioned, his goal is getting his life back on track.

We ask the Board to recommend that Majid be transferred to a third country, without special conditions. Thank you.

PM: Thank you. We understand that Board members may reserve questions until the detainee and witness statements have been presented in their entirety.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: Does any member of the board have questions for the personal representatives or private counsel in this session?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

[No verbal response from the members.]



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PM: Seeing 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 15-minute recess to prepare for the remaining sessions.

[The public session closed at 0922, 19 January 2016.]

[END OF PAGE]



ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYM KEY

BM: BOARD MEMBER

CA: CASE ADMINISTRATOR

DET: DETAINEE

PC: PRIVATE COUNSEL

PM: PRESIDING MEMBER

PR 1: PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE ONE

PR 2: PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE TWO

TRANS 1: TRANSLATOR ONE (LOCATED AT PRS HQ)

TRANS 2: TRANSLATOR TWO (LOCATED AT GUANTANAMO BAY)