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[The detainee session for ISN 63 opened at 0953, 16 June 2016.]

CA: The Periodic Review Board is reconvened at 0953 hours on 16 June 2016, with regards to Mohamed Mani Ahmad al-Kahtani, ISN 63.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: Mohamed, during this hearing, you have an opportunity to make a personal statement or answer questions. It's your choice whether to make a statement or answer questions during this session. Do you understand my explanation?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: Yes.

TRANS 2: Yes, Ma'am.

PM: Thank you. Mohamed, ha... Board Members have had a chance to review your written statement before today's hearing. Do you wish to read your statement?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: Yes.

TRANS 2: Yes, Ma'am.

(PR 1, TRANS 2, AND PC CONFERRING WITH DET)

TRANS 2: No, he does not wish to read his statement, Ma'am.

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PM: Okay. Thank you. Mohamed, you are not obligated to answer questions posed by the Board Members. Do you wish to answer our questions today?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: Yes.

TRANS 2: Yes, Ma'am.

PM: Great. All right. Anyone like to start?

(BMs CONFERRING)

BM: Mohamed, thank you for answering our questions today. Could you explain what motivated you to travel to Afghanistan in 2000?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE] 2001?

BM: Two thousand...

PM: ... Two thousand...

TRANS 1: ... Two thousand. [CONTINUATION OF TRANSLATION]

(PC CONFERRING WITH DET)

PC: So, I'm sorry. I... I need to intervene here. I... I'm not sure whether or not the Board is in receipt of... of the letter that my co-counsel and I wrote. I think it's dated June 2nd, 2016, regarding the questioning of Mohamed about certain events in the past by the Periodic Review Board. Unfortunately, as we tried to explain in that letter and given the history of

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Mohamed's case, and given the fact that this is not, you know, a garden variety case, it is a case where, you know, we are dealing with an individual who was charged with capital offenses for trial by military commissions, we cannot, as his lawyers, permit him or advise him to answer questions that may expose him to criminal jeopardy. In the absence of a non-prosecution letter from both the Office of Military Commissions and the Justice Department, and given the fact that the U.S. government has not ruled out the possibility of prosecuting men like Mohamed who are PRB eligible, we simply cannot responsibly advise him or allow him to answer questions that fall under what he was charged with before the military commissions or the subject matter of his interrogations. So, to put things very simply, from our stand point, backward looking questions are going to be problematic, because when you look at the charge sheet that was brought against... that was sworn out against Mohamed before the military commissions, and when you look at the subject matter of his interrogations, those sorts of questions would be covered.

PM: So...

PC: ... So, we hope the Board... we... we beg the Board's indulgence. When it comes to those kinds of questions, I'm

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going to have to intervene.

PM: Well then, it's going to be very difficult for us to deliberate. I... I think the question stands. We'd like to know what motivated Mohamed to travel to Afghanistan in 2000.

BM: I'm not asking for what he did there. I'm just asking...

PM: ... Motivations...

BM: ... What was his motivation?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

(PC CONFERS WITH DET)

PC: Ma'am, I'm... I'm afraid that my instructions to my client remain as they are. I cannot advise him... as much as he would... wishes to engage with the Board fully about questions about his state of mind, I'm afraid backward looking questions are just gonna be a non-starter for... for us, and for the reasons that we stated in our letter.

PM: Thank you.

BM: So... so, I'm gonna be a little bit forthright here. This is gonna be very difficult, because one of the things that the Board is gonna look to is if there's been a change in mindset, whatever that means. So, without understanding what his previous mindset was and where he is today, it's gonna be

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very difficult for this Board to make deliberations. So, we're gonna put some of the onus on you, or at least I am, of how you plan on proceeding if we can't get a clear view of... of what his thoughts, motivations were previously and where he is at today.

(TRANS 1 CONFERRING WITH PM)

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

(PC CONFERRING WITH DET)

TRANS 2: Okay. I'm... I'm gonna continue what the gentleman said, over here. It's to interpret... to translate this for Mohamed.

PM: Okay.

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET FOR CLARIFICATION)

(BMs CONFERRING WHILE ON MUTE)

TRANS 2: Mohamed... Mohamed is just... just announced saying that he came over here with the intention of answering all your questions. Although there... only that there are certain questions that he was actually told by his attorney over here regarding legal matters that he should not be talking... answering these questions.

BM: Let me ask you a tr...

PC: ... I don't know if we understand...

PM: ... I'm sorry. I'm sorry. To... to the Private Counsel,

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we've read your letter. We've heard your statement. This is our only time with Mr. al-Kahtani. We're gonna have a separate session with you.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: ... So, we...

TRANS 1: [CONTINUATION OF TRANSLATION]

PM: We have heard and understand your point. Now, let us have this interaction.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

BM: So, has... Mohamed, has your views and your mindset changed from the time before you came to Guantanamo until now?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: Yes.

TRANS 2: Yes.

BM: How?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Of course, my mindset have changed from what it was in the past to the present time, because the period I spent over here in Guantanamo... Guantanamo was a very difficult period of time...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

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TRANS 2: ... And it transferred my set of mind to... to be...
being more optimistic towards the future...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And I started actually understanding the value
of life in a better way.

BM: Is there anything in particular, while you were at
GTMO that led you to this?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Of course first of all, seeing the reality of
things much better...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And of course, everything that was close to me
and that I valued became away from me, unreachable, and that's
why I learned the value of many things that I took it for
granted before.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Therefore, things became so clear to me, and in
the broad spec... spectrum.

BM: If you were to be released, what would you do?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]...

BM: ... How would you live your life?

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TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: First of all, I would like to thank the members of the Board giving the chance to speak with you today and opportunity... opportunity to leave Guantanamo.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And of course, there are so many preparations from my family's side and actually from the Saudi government itself to prepare me and to integrate me into society should I be released.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: The most important thing that I'm actually looking forward to is the rehab center in Saudi Arabia, which is a good opportunity for me...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And of course, receiving this treatment I deserve in my country...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And of course, I return to my father, mother, my... my family...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And of course, all this will help me to become

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a productive person in the society.

PM: Can...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

PM: I'm sorry. Just...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Through all this period of time that... being over here, my family and I were preparing for me to go back live a ples... peaceful life, and live a life that... that normal human beings live in every society.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Through this hearing today, I have... I'm confident that you will be able to understand what I'm talking about and you have enough skills to realize the person I am.

(BMs CONFERRING)

BM: In preparing for your future, have you taken any of the Life Skills courses or any other courses in the time you've been at Guantanamo?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Yes, I did take some... I attended some Life Skills classes to prepare me for the future. The fact of the matter I am actually depending a lot on the rehab center in Saudi Arabia.

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DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And there are some members of the rehab center...
Saudi rehab center [REDACTED]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And they discussed with me the program for the
future and some of these members were actually psychiatrists...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And we discussed everything within this rehab
program, so that as... as... as soon as I return to Sa... Sau... Saudi
Arabia, they can start this rehab program, and which will help
me to reintegrate in the society and with my family.

BM: Are there particular kinds of jobs that you're
interested in learning?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Actually, through my communication with my
brothers, I learned from them that they just opened a new
company and the... I wou... they told me that as soon as I return
and I'm ready, I have a job with this company.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And I would like to inform you as well that I'm

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being actually a salary, under my name, every month is being disbursed, while I'm here in Guantanamo.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And as I told you, that the... all my brothers are partners in this actually company, and as far as I'm concerned, I do have a job over there and I have a salary already being disbursed in... under my name.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: On the other hand the gov... Saudi government is sponsoring me for a job, once I actually complete the rehab program in Saudi Arabia.

PM: What... what does your brothers' company do?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: It's a ground transportation company that actually is transporting vegetables, fruits, cattle.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Okay. It's like a U-Haul thing that people can rent the... those trucks and transfer and move things. All this what I just spoke about like cattle, and produce, and...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: It has a... actually administration and it does not

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have many drivers and employees over there in this company.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: It's a complete actually staff.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Of course, I was surprised receiving this news, but it was because I've been here for about 14 years at... during that time that this company was established.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

(BMs CONFERRING)

BM: Mohamed, if you were released and you were accepted into the Saudi rehabilitation program, what do you think they're gonna do for you?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I... I actually believe that the delegation from the U.S. over here visited the rehab center in the Saudi Arabia and they commended the program.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I... I have confident in the rehab center in Saudi Arabia that they will actually help me to emotionally and socially to reintegrate.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

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TRANS 2: Of course, there are actually instructions, and... and they teach you how to live and integrate in the society in the future.

(TRANS 2 AND PC CONFERRING WITH DET)

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Of course, as well in this... within this rehab center, there are scholars... religious schol... scholars to actually try to correct any wrong ideologies that people get in with wrong ideologies, they try to help them with that; and I stand corrected, there's... it was not emotional, it was psychological problems when I mentioned before.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I believe that the... the rehab center is like a platform for me to restart a new life.

BM: So, Mohamed, you've been in detention now for about 14 years. That's plenty of time to reflect on your strengths and weaknesses. What do you think you need the most help with, specifically?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

TRANS 2: Can you repeat the question, please?

TRANS 1: [REPETITION OF TRANSLATION OF QUESTION]

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(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET FOR CLARIFICATION)

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: All right. I believe my illness... my psychological illness. It... it... I deserve some kind of a treatment. It needs a... a... a long healing process...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And I believe that the Saudi rehab center will help a lot in that...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... Because the psychiatrist [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And he works at the rehab... we're speaking about the Saudi psychiatrist.

DET: Yeah. [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And he will help me a lot in treating my psychological conditions.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Of course, what might help me as well that Saudi Arabia now is a different country from when I left it four... 14 years ago.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

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TRANS 2: Of course, after spending over here 14 years, I'm not like any standard Saudi national who lives over there.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Of course, with all my psychological conditions and illnesses over here, I'm sure that the Saudi rehab center will help me to recover from all that.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: In conclusion, I will try to take advantage of everything that the rehab center will offer me to co... to go back to live a normal life.

BM: So, Mohamed, it sounds like you recognize you have a lot of problems and you need a lot of help. Is that correct?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Yes, this is true, and in Saudi Arabia, there are many people who actually are willing and promise to help.

BM: So, let me ask you this... the... the...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

BM: ... I understand that you re... you've... have a history of not attending your medical appointments at Guantanamo Bay. Is that true?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

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DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I did actually attend many visits, and I received a lot of medication but in Guantanamo over here, things are not... they don't have standards at all. Standards are all the time changing.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And because of my psychological condition and problems, sometimes I am reluctant to go through a lot of visits... clinic visits.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And of course, things will change if I have just one physician that I'm dealing with at all the time... with all the time...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And of course, from... from my side over here, things will change. I'll be more wel... welcoming more the treatment that I'm gonna be receiving.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I wanna assure the members of the Board that I'm very serious about becoming a very productive person in the Saudi society...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

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TRANS 2: ... But the problems I'm facing should be resolved in this matter, meaning going to the rehab center.

(BMs CONFERRING)

BM: Mohamed, could you tell us what were your views about Americans before you arrived at Guantanamo, and what are your views about Americans today?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I did not know a lot about Americans...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... But there's good reputation about Americans in my... in our society.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I also work with Americans in the hospital in my city.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And to be honest with you, they are... they...
(Inaudible) Arabs that we can actually inter... interact with them and cooperate with them...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And of course, during my time in Guantanamo over here, I was able to interact with the Americans, and I got

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to know more about them.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And I fa... for sure that there's still more that I don't know about Americans...

DET: ... [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]...

TRANS 2: ... But there's some very good things that I got to know about the americ... about the Americans.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: One of these good things that the... the United States is like a melting pot. There are so many different groups living together.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: There... there... there's so many other good things, but I'm waiting for your questions.

BM: Good morning. I have a couple of questions. You re...

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

BM: You referenced that Saudi Arabia is different now. How is it different now than it was before?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Through the news that I'm following, and on TV, I do feel that it have changed...

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DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And through my video communications with my family...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And the delegation of the sau... the... the Saudi delegation [REDACTED] they explain to me that there are big changes.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: The delegation informed me that the... the... the country have changed, the people have changed, and everything is... is actually better than it was before.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Should I be released today and just go walking in Riyadh, in... in the city of Riyadh, I might be facing many problems, but I'm sure that going to the rehab first, it will actually prepare me to... for living a normal life.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Everything have changed.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]...

TRANS 2: ... We...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Okay. The actually way of... way of life, leading

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in official... with official government...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... Legal matters...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... Legal matters, the traffic...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... The way actually jobs in official government
offices.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: All these things I need to get acquainted with...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... So, that I can just be like any normal person
over there.

BM: What... what was wrong with the...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

BM: Excuse me, what... what was wrong with it before that's
better now, and why is that important to you? What... what was
wrong with it... it... what did you have a problem with?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Of course, like any other country, Saudi Arabia
is kind of progressing and developing like other countries in

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the world; but unfortunately, it was very slow progress at my time, and I believe now, it's much faster than before.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

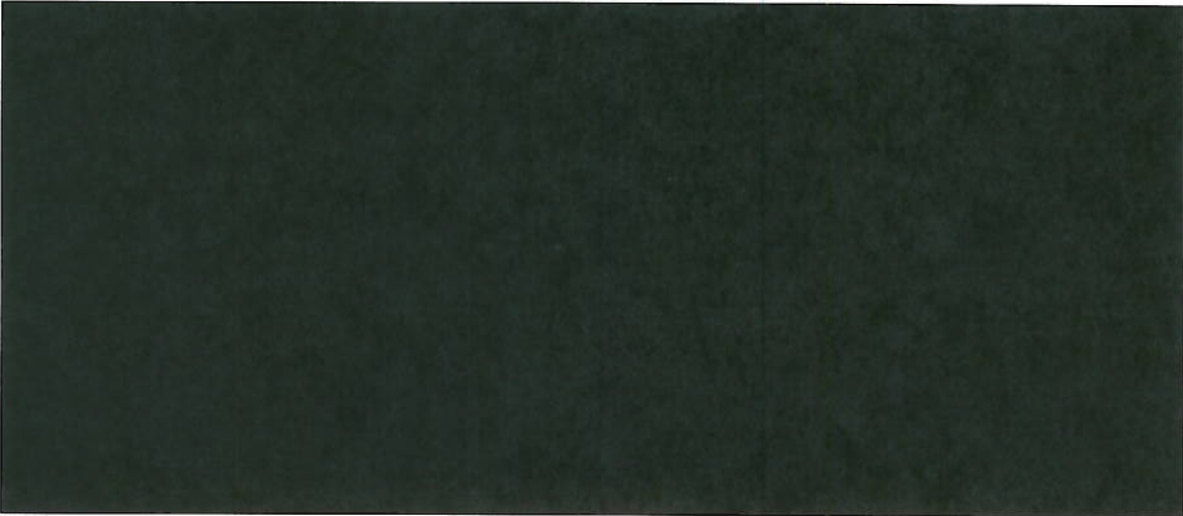
TRANS 2: One of the actually things that happened recently over here is that they gave the youth... they gave the youth more opportunities and more rights.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Before that, they neglected the... the... the rights and... of the... and the... of the young people over there, and now, they are actually willing to resolve their problems.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)



BM: Well... your... your family... you have several family members that are... that are in the Saudi military and other

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government positions. Your father was in the... was in the Saudi army, is that correct, or Saudi military?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: My... my... my father was in the police force.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: My brothers as well, they work in some military offices over there... establishments.

BM: Were they working in those in 2000, as well as now, or has that changed somehow?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: No, they were not working at any government establishments at that... at that time, and that's one of the things that changed actually and they have very good and strong relations now with the government.

BM: Even your father? He wasn't working for...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

BM: The government at that time?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Yes, he did. No, no...

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DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... Yes, my... my father was in the police force,
yes, at the time.

BM: You... you... you're alleged to have met with Usama bin
Laden [sic] with the... regardless of that, what... what are your
views of him?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

(PC CONFERRING WITH DET)

TRANS 2: Can you repeat the question, please, again?

BM: You're alleged...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

BM: ... You're alleged to have met with Usama bin Laden
[sic]. I'm not asking you to confirm that, but can you tell us
what your views are of Usama bin Laden [sic]?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: There were major problems that happened and... at
the... at the time... okay.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And there are... are things that we do not accept
as Muslims.

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DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: In my views... actually, in my opinion that we have to follow the teachings of the Prophet Mohammed and not anybody else, including bin Laden.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I'm trying to get that...

(PC AND TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Okay. Bin Laden committed mistakes and these mistakes are not accepted.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

BM: ... Regardless... regardless of the mistake...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

BM: ... I'm sorry. Go ahead. I thought you were done.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: My opinion about him that he is a terrorist. He actually committed certain things and he actually deserve... we got what he deserve.

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BM: Are there things about him that you admired?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

DET: No.

TRANS 2: No.

(BMs CONFERRING)

PM: Have your views about Usama bin Laden [sic] changed over time?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: We did not know Osama bin Laden the way we... we know him today.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Today, we all I do understand... I learned that... the... the... his methods and his ideology was actually terrorist in its way... terrorism, and we should not follow such ideology.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: It's enough all the problems that happened because of him.

BM: Are you familiar with anything that's going on outside of Saudi Arabia, the regional changes that are taking place in Syria or in Iraq and... and... and other countries in the Middle

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East?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Yes, I do follow the news and this news upsets me very much. I'm very upset because of what's happening.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Before recently, I started... I started go... watching news, recently.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Of course, due to my psychological con... condition over here, I would rather watch things that bring me happiness than saddening me.

BM: A view that's shared by many, I'm sure. The... one... one... one other question... what... what you said, there are things about what you're seeing on the news that bothered you. What... what specifically? What area?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Actually, the fact killing children, displacing women and people in the streets.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: All those miseries that we are watching... all of

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us, it actually affects us, and of course, affects all the Americans, as well.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Nobody would like to watch his mother and family displaced and in the streets.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: All this... I suffer pain actually when I see all this what's happening.

BM: Wh... who is responsible for displacing... who do you think is responsible for... for causing that suffering?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... If we are speaking about Syria, the problem started with Bashar al-Assad.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: This is not only my own opinion. This is John Kerry's opinion, too.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And of course, after this, the infiltration of some terrorist groups.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And they committed those atrocities and the chaos

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is everywhere now.

(BMs CONFERRING)

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

BM: Mohamed...

(BMs CONFERRING)

BM: ... I understand according to your medical summary, that
you've attempted suicide twice...

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

BM: ... When wa...

TRANS 1: ... So... so... Sorry...

BM: ... Go ahead...

TRANS 1: ... [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

BM: When were these attempts?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Due to my... of course, you do understand and know
about my chronic psychological condition, and sometimes like
now, I do not wanna speak about it, but I will be pressing
myself to talk to you about what you just asked.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Because of my conditions... psychological
condition, I always prepared to be in isolation and in... in a

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quiet place...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]...

TRANS 2: ... But I did all what I can today to be over here with you and answer your questions.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Of course, the conditions over here in... in... in... in Guantanamo [sic], they aggre... aggravate me. They add to my depression over here in Guantanamo.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: As you know, the psychological conditions over here need to be treated, the right people, and the right place, as well.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And due to the rough conditions over here, in this place, and that is wha... that what actually prompted me to try to take my life.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

BM: ... So there were no...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

BM: ... Mohamed...

TRANS 2: ... I just wanted to stop the suffering.

BM: So, there were no other events in your life that

precipitated these attempts?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Actually, there was no outside actually causes or reasons or family reasons that actually... forced me to do this or prompted me to do this.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: But believe me, when I go and... on a video call with my family, they see them... they see me, I see them, I actually return feeling much, much better psychologically.

BM: Okay. Thank you.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

(BMs CONFERRING)

BM: Mohamed, can you explain your understanding of bayat?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Of course, in my eyes, Islam needs some scholars to be able to discuss such matters.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Just with my very simple understanding, it's more

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of a trust...

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... A... a... a promise or a vow and trust.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: It's just that's what I think the meaning is.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: There... there... there... there might be a better explanation, but I'm not aware of that.

BM: Okay. Ha... have you placed that trust or bayat to anybody right now?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I don't have any bayat about anybody right now. I only put my trust in the Saudi government to do all what it can for my case... in my case.

BM: Thank you.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

(BMs AND TRANS 1 CONFERRING)

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

TRANS 2: But I do want to (Inaudible).

BM: Good morning, Mohamed.

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TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

BM: As one of my colleagues...

DET: ... Good morning...

BM: ... Had said, you've had a lot of time to reflect since you've been in Guantanamo.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

BM: Looking back now, what do you think about the 9/11 attack on the United States?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: All right. I... I... I... if... if it were in my hands at the time to stop it, I would have stopped it.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Unfortunately, it did happen, and thank God it did not happ... it did not happen again.

BM: Do you think...

(BM CONFERRING WITH TRANS 1)

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

BM: Do you think...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 1: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

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TRANS 1: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Actually, the... the... when we remember everybody then when they remember 9/11, everybody feels pain.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And as I said earlier, thank God that this such events did not happen again.

BM: Do you think the United States, in any way, was responsible itself for the attacks of 9/11 because of its policies or anything that it did wrong?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: To be honest with you, nothing can justify such what happened over here for a lot of... from... for si... civilians to suffer- children and women.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: But I... I don't believe that the... the United States had any actually...

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

TRANS 2: ... It's not responsible for what happened...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... They wa... they were... they're not to be blamed...

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the United States is not to be blamed for what happened.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: This is what an outside actually, an act on the United States.

BM: Do you believe that Usama bin Laden [sic] violated Islamic Law when he ordered the attacks on the United States?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I believe that he did something that many Muslims did not accept and did not recognize...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And he committed something that many people do not approve and do not accept...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And myself, as well...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And of course, including me.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And I'm... of course, you might have actually observed that yourself that many scholars... religious scholars and societies objected what happened.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

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TRANS 2: I assure you that for me, I... I... I... I do not accept such behavior at all.

BM: What did you do when you heard he had...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

BM: ... Been killed?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: All the psychological problems that I'm... I... I'm facing... that I was facing, prevented me from thinking of others...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... But at the end, I was happy that all the problems caused by him had ceased...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... Because as a matter of fact, other bigger things could have happened...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... But thank God that it ended right there.

BM: Do you think the United States should destroy al-Qaeda now?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Yes, and I think it already did...

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BM: ... Thanks...

TRANS 2: ... Destroy al-Qaeda.

(BMs CONFERRING)

BM: Mohamed, when you talked about the Saudi rehab program, you stated that it helps people correct erroneous religious ideology. Do you think in the past you were... that you had some erroneous religious views?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I believe that a person, any human being, should correct any wrong ideology if...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... If he did have one.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Concerning myself, I do admit that I do need to learn the cora... correct teachings of Islam...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And the only opportunity that I have to do that would be in the rehab center in Saudi Arabia, not over here.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: As you know, over here we do not actually receive any scholars, any specialists.

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DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: The experience of all the former detainees that left over here, they actually admitted that they actually benefited a lot from the rehab center.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I see myself deprived from this opportunity, and through you, I might be able to achieve that.

PM: Mohamed, can you tell us about your education?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

TRANS 2: All right. I did not... I actually did not complete my education. I dropped out first year in secondary school agriculture... field of agriculture.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Okay. I... I was actually more into business.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And I did actually work a few jobs after that... after I dropped out of school.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: So, I actually dropped out of school and started working.

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DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

PM: Tell us about your jobs.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I worked in dairy projects.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I wor... I worked at investment companies in Saudi Arabia.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I worked in a hospital with Americans.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

TRANS 2: The last job with the Americans at this hospital as a driver of an ambulance was my actually kind of best job I had, most comfortable.

PM: What made it the best?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: It was the salary. I had good salary...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And at the same time, it was close to where I live...

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DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And I think I had a career in there, probably a career being promoted from an ambulance driver to administrative work.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: It looked like it had a good future for me.

PM: Tell us about what kind of person you were in two... in 1999 and in 2000. Were you a... a happy person? Did you have a lot of friends? Describe yourself to us.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

(TRANS 2 AND PC CONFERRING WITH DET)

TRANS 2: He was just questioning whether this is during the I think 9/11...

PC: ... Yeah...

TRANS 2: ... but it was before that...

PC: ... Ma'am, I... I believe that because of the... the difference... the different calendar, he's having trouble situating 1999, 2000. I don't know if there's some other way we can...

(BMs CONFERRING WHILE PC SPEAKING)

PM: ... Before he went to Afghanistan.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

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(LAUGHTER)

PM: ... I mean...

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

(BMs CONFERRING WHILE TRANS 1 TRANSLATING)

PM: ... Or, when you were working at the hospital.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I was preparing to get married.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I had some (Inaudible) relations with some friends.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I had some close friends from the same members of the family.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Okay. There were... many of the members of the... of the family were interested in me as a person, and they were my friends at the same time.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Of course, I had friends, maybe not many friends... a lot of friends, but I had friends.

PM: And so, describe to us kind of what changed. What

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took you off of your career path, and your plan to get married?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: All my attempts to get married, and there were several attempts, but they were all unsuccessful because of my conditions... my psychological condition.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: However, I am determined to receive the treatment I need, and get married, and have children, and live a normal life.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: How can I actually reconcile for my... any mistake I did when I'm over here in Guantanamo?

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I will... being over here will never give me the opportunity or the chance to actually correct my mi... my... my mistakes and live a normal life.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I'm actually over here having this great opportunity and I don't need... I appeal you to help me to reach that.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

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TRANS 2: Regardless of what you see me in the past... what I've done in the past...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... Just look at... just, you know, look at me and what I would become in the future.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I assure you and assure everybody that I am a person actually who took a lesson... learned a lesson from the past, and he's gonna try to do the best to be better in the future.

PM: So, tell us about that lesson. What lesson did you learn?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

TRANS 2: What I learned is that I should not take any dangerous path, and I should always pursue peace.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I should be always with my family in my country.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: If I'm pursuing peace, I should go to seek peace.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

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TRANS 2: I decided to pursue the right path...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And the only way to do it is to practically prove that.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: He know you... I'm... I... I do have many problems, and... but at the same time, I'm very ambition, and I'm gonna...

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

TRANS 2: ... So, in that case, I will actually be treating my...

DET: ... At the same time...

TRANS 2: ... Medical condition, at the same trime... times... the... the same time trying to pursue what I need to achieve.

PM: In the past, when you experienced a crisis or a challenge, who did you go to for help?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Actually, I took advice from my... usually, I went to my parents- my father and mother- and my close family members.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And because of being separated from them, my... my...

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actually, my problems have increased.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: The... the... the... the prime figure in my life that actually used to... I used to reconcile with him was my... my father.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And he's one of the most enthusiastic people of my family, and the one willing to receive me, and help me once I'm released from here.

PM: So, you acknowledge you made mistakes and you didn't listen to your father?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: How will you seek to repair that relationship and make it up to your father?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: To correct my mistakes, there are several decisions that I took on myself.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I would... I want to return to serve him.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I will actually recognize all the... any of the

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agreements between me or the vows between me and Saudi Arabian government...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... Because my father is the one's gonna sponsor me with the... after I am released from the rehab center...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And I pledge to be actually... whatever he... the expectation of my father.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: My father is a righteous person in... in... in society. He wishes well to everybody.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Of course, he's a poli... he's in the police force...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And that... and that's why he is a very straightforward person and a very strict person... conservative.

DET: Yes.

PM: Your... I think, your attorney mentioned that you had been manipulated in the past.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: In the future, how will you avoid being manipulated again?

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TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Of course primarily, it's gonna be through the rehab center where there are many scholars, where there are gonna be many specialists that will help me, and then after this, the second page will be when I go back to my family.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And after this, I... when going back to my family, I have a team, which I can actually name a leg... a legal team in my family.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: It's not... it's just met... a metaphor, but of course, they are willing and prepared to... to prepare to protect me in any possible way.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Everything they did for my... for my return in the... in the future, it makes... they... they wanna make sure that they will be able to safeguard me and protect me.

PM: You have some autonomy at Guantanamo to make choices in... in your day-to-day life. Tell us how you make some of those choices. What factors do you think about?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

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(TRANS 1 CONFERRING WITH PM FOR CLARIFICATION)

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Of course, being in Guantanamo for somebody with my illness over here, it's very difficult.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And I... I find it very difficult to live and accommodate myself in these conditions.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

TRANS 2: Whatever my decisions are based on actually the... the instructions I receive over here in Guantanamo.

PM: You have... you're something of a celebrity. You're kind of like a celebrity. People will know who you are.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: If someone...

(TRANS 1 AND 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

TRANS 2: Go ahead, Madam.

PM: If... if someone seeks you out, if you're transferred, and they want you to be a part of their... their group or do something to support them...

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

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PM: ... How would you determine whether or not they're a good group to be with?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: To be honest and very truthful for you, I will not allow anybody to divert... to divert me from my path.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: The... the Saudi government will protect me.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: My family will protect me...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And I will protect myself...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And I will not allow anybody to take me to... to a different path.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I will live the same way my brothers are living.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I will not allow anybody to divert me from what I'm seeking, and I will not even be with that... with the... with... with him.

PM: Well, how would you know? How would you... how are you

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able to determine, for example, a religious scholar that you think is right, and a religious scholar that you disagree with? Give us some examples.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

(TRANS 1 CONFERRING WITH PM FOR CLARIFICATION)

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: This is one of the actually the things that the Saudi government now is dealing with in the right way.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: That not any scholar can just come out with his own Fatwa and... and decisions.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: This is actually in the past. It's not... the Saudi government is not allowing such a thing anymore.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: The Saudi government now, or... is appointing sa... only certain scholars that are approved by the government...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And... and through these scholars, people will be receiving the correct... the teachings of is... of Islam.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

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TRANS 2: They are very well-known now. They're on TV all the time. Everybody knows... knows their names.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: They have websites. They actually have... they... they have their own maybe places where they teach...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Other... other than that, nobody else... no other scholar is allowed and... to just preach and declare any fatwa...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And through these scholars, it would be clear what's wrong and what's right.

PM: And you...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC] I'll be honest with you

[SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I have to be... I'm gonna be... have to be honest with you, my path is gonna be that of a very normal, standard person.

PM: Well, describe to us what normal means for you.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: Tell us what...

(DET SPEAKING IN ARABIC IN BACKGROUND)

PM: ... You think your... your day will be.

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TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Of course, I'll be working in the company with my brothers. I return home to my wife and children.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I will actually have a... a workout routine in the after... in the evening.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I will get together with my family at the end of the day...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... Watch TV...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: After the sun... after the evening prayer, I will watch TV.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: We are a big, close family.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: This was gonna be as... as a family, this is gonna be our evening, and when we have some certain social events, we'll get together.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

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TRANS 2: Going to trips, to parks.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Through my communication and... and calls with my family, I started imagining how it's ga... my life is gonna be in the future.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I'll just work and do whatever other people are doing.

PM: Do you have any fears or...

(DET SPEAKING IN ARABIC IN BACKGROUND)

PM: ... Concerns?

TRANS 1: Does he have fears against what?

PM: Any fears or concerns about transfer.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Absolutely not, just the opposite. Everything about the future is comforting.

PM: You mentioned, I think, in your statement that you thought it was wrong to kill women and children.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: What... part of our job...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

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TRANS 2: I still... I'm still convinced of that... that...
sorry...

PM: ... Part of our job is to determine threat to the United States.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: So, do you think there are times when the use of force, or fighting, is permissible?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE] against the United States or...

PM: ... In general...

TRANS 1: In general... [CONTINUATION OF TRANSLATION]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: The... the... the... life is supposed to be based on coexistence and peace.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Those who divert from this are people who are actually irrational and go beyond what's is normal.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: There's no need to... to actually resort to violence, unless it is against people who know nothing but violence.

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DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Of course, we... we have to protect innocent people, women, and children against any hostile environment.

PM: What are your thoughts about the Saudi involvement in the conflict in Yemen?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I am... I... I... I feel there is some negativite... negativity in their involvement in Yemen.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: They could have actually resolved this problem a little bit earlier, but they were late.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And I believe that they st... can still resolve this matter, but actually it's... it's have been neglected by them.

PM: I think one of your statements from another detainee said that you encouraged people to take part in the Periodic Review process.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: Why did you do that?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

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DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Actually, thi... this is true. It's... it's a fact, and it was witnessed by one of my Colonel over here in the detention center... in the detention facility.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And I did actually send some... some letters or... to some of the detainees who refuse to attend the Board to go ahead and attend the Board.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I will not be exaggerating if I said that mo... the pe... most of the people who ha... who were refusing to attend, I'm the one who convinced them.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: For two reasons...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... Well... if there... if... when I see that the person is actually truly want to change himself, the only ones who can help him are... are the members of the Board.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: After collecting information about the... the members of the Board, I did... I understood that these members of the Board are of a certain level of education and understanding

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of our cases.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And therefore, I felt that I will... I'll be sitting with people, educated people, who understand your case, understand what you're saying...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And there's... there's one thing that I encourage everybody to attend is that because they understood that you're looking always for the future...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And then that's why we found out and discovered this is the only chance and the only way to get out of here.

PM: If this Board decides that you're still a threat, how...

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: ... How will you deal with that decision?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

(BMs CONFERRING WHILE QUESTION IS BEING ANSWERED)

TRANS 2: Of course, I'll... I'll be sad and upset and it could cause even add to my... the problems the... the... the conditions I'm suffering from.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

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TRANS 2: It will cause me problems, and it will delay the rehab program that I have been discussed...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And why do you think I will cause any threat on the United States?

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Everything indicates ju... just the opposite.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Even most probably you have seen on the video that my family sent the... the place... the apartment or the place that they prepared for me to live in.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I... I... I hope that the members of the Board would decide that I do not pose any threat on the United States, and I assure you I do not. I don't pose any threat.

BM: Mohamed, one thing that's clear, based on our discussion with you today, is that you have a clear understanding that you have some psychological problems.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

BM: The other thing that's clear is that for the last several months, you have not been participating in any of the psychological treatment that's available at Guantanamo.

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TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

BM: But in the past, you had been cooperating with the psychological treatment.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

BM: Why did you stop changing your views about cooperating with the medical treatment you were receiving, psychologically, at Guantanamo?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

BM: ... In other words, why did you stop?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: You understand, and the members of the Board as well understand, that one of the major part of the treatment is to get out of the place that's causing the problem.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I used to go to the clinic. I used to take my medication, but once I go back to my cell, I start suffering again of... at... the... my case actually and my condition worsens...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And I found out that the medication I was taking negatively impacted my body.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

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TRANS 2: I suffered some unusual problems. I had a lot of noise...

DET: ... Yeah.

TRANS 2: I heard the... like... I have so many things... noise in my head.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I was scared and skeptical after this to take the... the medication and that my condition would... would worsen.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And a... as you know, in many of the medical facilities dealing with psych... psychological cases they have beautiful scenery, gardens, flowers that would reflect with peace to the... to the patients.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: The psychiatrist at this class over here, they were very educated and very well... very knowledgeable, but I could not deal with them because of the situation... the conditions over here.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: That's all I have to say about this, but I want to tell you that my plans for the future. I'm determined to continue my treatment. I have a program with the doctors and

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psychiatrists over there in Saudi Arabia.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: In addition to that, the... the... the psychiatrists they use over here, the physicians, are all the time changing. They're not the same...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And then after being with someone for a while, there's another doctor to pla... a replacement that comes in over here who doesn't understand me and understand my case.

BM: So... so... I... I think I understand...

(DET SPEAKING IN ARABIC IN BACKGROUND)

TRANS 1: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

BM: ... But what makes you think that any of this is gonna be different in the Saudi rehabilitation program?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: The psychiatrist himself from the rehab center, [REDACTED] he set with me a program for when I'm transferred.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Actually, he prepared the whole... the entire routine and program for me and I'm actually late attending... to

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start this program.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: The pro... part of the program was to use the same physician, the same doctor all the time for a cer... for a certain period of time, until my condition subsides...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And there's so many departments in thi... in this rehab cent... center to help the psy... the patients with psychological conditions to improve.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I wanna assure you something.

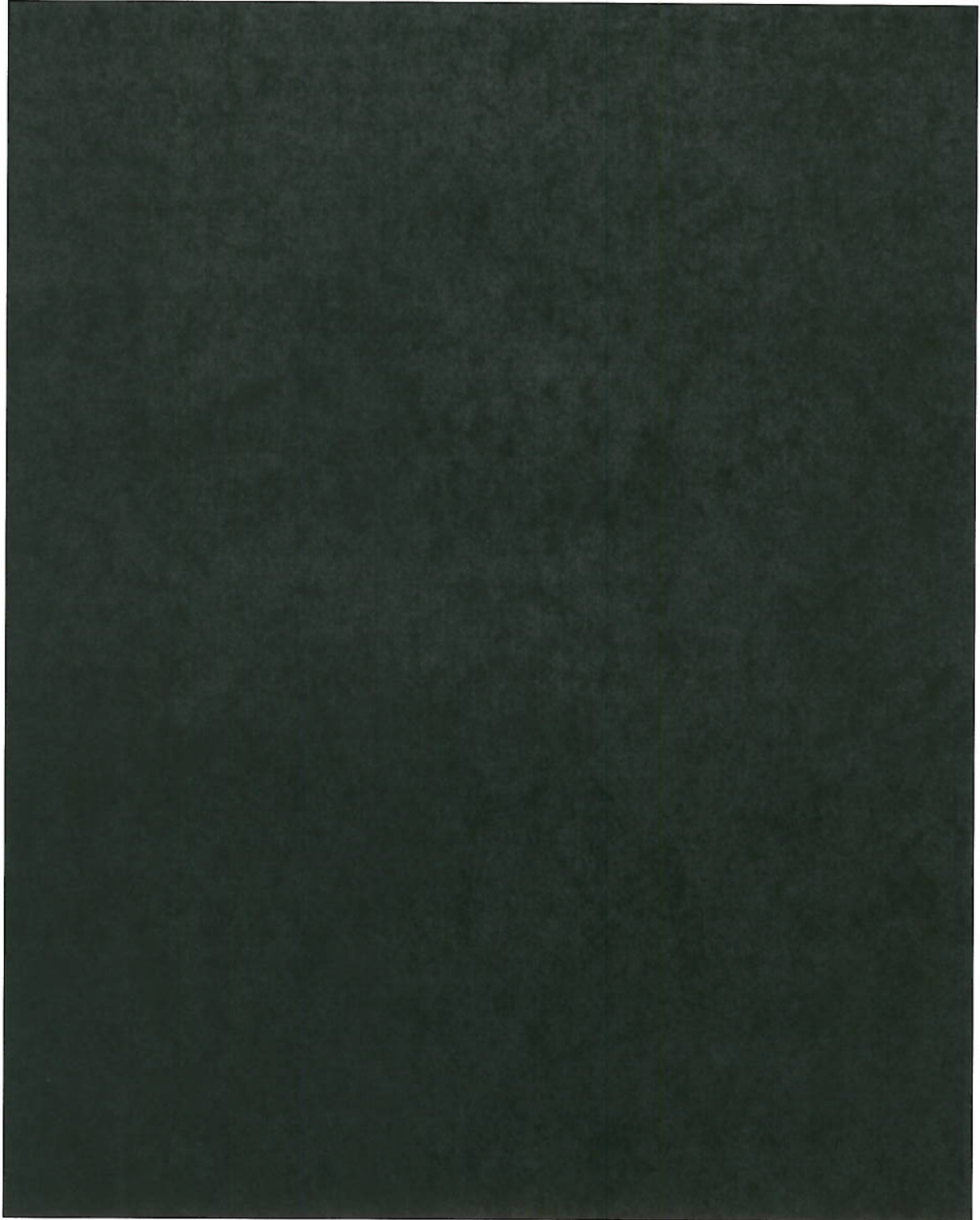
DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

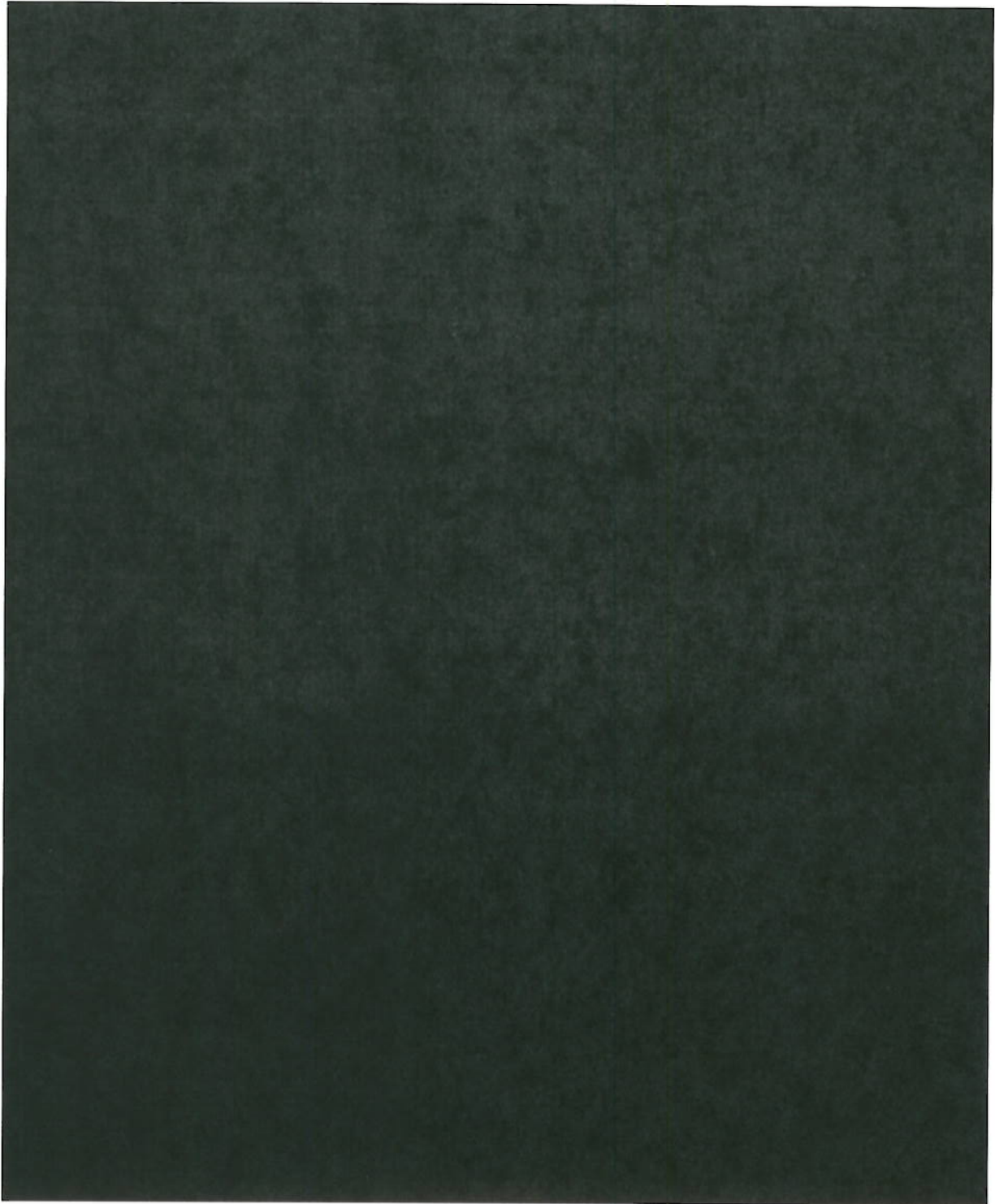
TRANS 2: A big part of my treatment is being close to my famil... my family and seeing my family.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: This will definitely help me to improve and... and... improve my case... my condition.









PM: You described to us a... a little bit your... your life before you went to Afghanistan. What kinds of things motivated you when you were that person?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

TRANS 1: The... the... sorry, but the... the...

TRANS 2: ... Ma'am, can you may... can you repeat the question again, Ma'am, please...

(TRANS 1 CONFERRING WITH PM FOR CLARIFICATION)

TRANS 1: [RE-TRANSLATION OF QUESTION]

(TRANS 1 AND 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

TRANS 2: Actually, we have some kind of a challenge in trade among our members of the family.

DET: Rival.

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TRANS 2: Rivalry, okay.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: There's a competition among us who would be... actually be... would be more successful in the trade business.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And I... I like to compete with them in this field trade.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... Again, it's... it's concerning trade, who would be able to maybe buy more property and...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... Competition in trade...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And it's from this... the... th... this was the core of how my brothers later on thought of establishing their company.

PM: Was religion a big motivator for you?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: It was part of my life...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... But it was not a major part of my life.

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(BMs CONFERRING)

PM: All right, Mohamed. That concludes our questions from the Board Members. Your written statement and a transcript of today's hearing may be posted to the Periodic Review Secretariat's website. Do you wish to have these posted, and if yes, why? If no, why?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: The answer is yes. I don't mind having everything posted...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And because as well, this is Mohamed... this is Mohamed in the future.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I wanna say that there was not... there's nothing for me to hide.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And again, I wanted to a... I wanna add that this is how I a... I would be in the future... who I am in the future.

PM: All right. Thank you. Personal Representative, Private Counsel, do you have questions for Mohamed?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

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PC: Yes, Ma'am. I have a handful of questions.

PM: Personal Representative, did you have any...

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE] I'm sorry. Go ahead,
Ma'am.

PR: Go ahead, Ma'am.

PM: Do the... sorry, to the Personal Representative, did you
have coun... questions, as well?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR: Yes, Ma'am. I... I have one or two, but I'll let the...
Mr. Kaseem [sic] ask his questions first.

PM: Okay...

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

(PR CONFERRING WITH PC)

PR: Ma'am, I'm gonna ask mine first.

PM: All right. Please, proceed...

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR: Mohamed, how often do you talk... or, have you spoken
with your family since being here at Guantanamo?

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I was actually continuously and regularly...
regularly communicating with my family according to schedule.

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PR: Okay. Well, what... what was... how often? I mean, was it monthly? Was it weekly?

DET: No. [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... I had a call every two month...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... Approximately.

DET: Two hours or maybe one hour, sometimes two.

TRANS 2: Sometimes, it's an hour call. Sometimes, it's a two hours call.

PR: Okay. Were... were these good phone calls? Was your family happy to hear from you?

DET: Huh?

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: They were very happy to hear from me...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

PR: Okay, and... and in our discussions during our meetings that we've had, I know you're close to your family.

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR: And I believe one of the questions was who would guide you when you go home. So, I... I just wanna hear you say it again. Who... who's gonna guide you on doing what's right and...

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and lettin' you know what is not right...

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: There are many people that I would actually use them as go... for... as guidance... guidance. First of all, people in the rehab center...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And these are the ones that are accounted for by the Saudi government.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Of course, I... as well, some family members...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And at the head of that, most important is my father.

PR: Okay. Now... now, I'm good.

PC: Thank you, Mohamed.

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PC: Of course, we're now in the month of Ramadan. So, I wanted to ask you if you were fasting today.

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I'm not fasting today due to the importance of

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that day for me.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And that was, of course, in order to have enough energy to answer all your questions.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And that's it.

PC: So, Mohamed, I'm going to... to follow up on some of the questions that the members of the Board have asked you.

DET: Hm?

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PC: Specifically, I want to ask you about the change of views that you've had in your time at Guantanamo.

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PC: I'm going to ask the question as simply as possible.

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PC: Do you... do you agree with the methods and the ideology of al-Qaeda?

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Concerning ideologies and... and opinions, Islam is very clear.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

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TRANS 2: Islam rejects violence.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Islam rejects killing children and innocent people.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And rejects oppressing others.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And has the al-Qaeda or others, if they teach otherwise, we do not accept that.

PC: So, you... so... so you mentioned...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

PC: ... You mentioned, Mohamed, that... that one of the things that upsets you about what is happening in Syria is that children and innocent people are suffering.

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PC: And... and you also mentioned that you would look to the Saudi government religious scholars for guidance on religious matters.

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PC: The official Saudi religious...

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PC: So, what if they... what if an official Saudi government

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religious scholar were to say to you, "Go fight in Syria to protect children?"

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: This scholar, if he said such a... such a thing, he would be diverting from the real teachings of Islam.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And the Saudi government will not allow such thing.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And the scholar who gave this fatwa or this... the... thi... this declaration, if the... there's somebody to protect those children, it's not gonna be me, it's gonna be the official army... military force.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I will be at home and in my... at my work.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And why should I go fight?

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: There's... there's an army and there's an official government...

(DET SPEAKING ARABIC IN THE BACKGROUND)

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TRANS 2: ... And they can protect children over there in Syria.

PC: Mohamed, you... you mentioned... you mentioned... you described one of your jobs as the best jobs you've had... your job as an ambulance driver.

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PC: What happened with that job?

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Actually, what happened over there is that due to my psychological condition that... for which I was admitted to the hospital, I was actually laid off my job in... as an ambulance driver.

PC: And, Mohamed, again...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Due to the fact that there was an incident with... for which I was admitted to a psychological institution in Saudi. That's why I was terminated.

PC: And just to further clarify, you mentioned preparing to get married in 1999 and 2000.

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PC: How many... how many times did you try to get married in

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Saudi Arabia?

DET: Too many times...

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Okay. I... I attempted to get married many times...

DET: ... Almost between seven and eight...

TRANS 2: ... Between seven and eight times I attempted...
attempted to get married.

PC: And wh... and why... why did these attempts not succeed?

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: My sa... my psychological condition was an a... was
an obstacle.

PC: And... and... whi... while you're here, at Guantanamo, is
it... is it difficult for you to participate in many classes?

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Yes, of course. It's very difficult.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I'm suffering some kind of allergy that da... does
not allow me to stay in the sun for long times.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

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TRANS 2: The classes are usually actually scheduled in places that are subject to the sun and...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And of course as well, my psychological condition did not allow me to att... allow me to attend a lot of classes.

PC: What kind of problem? Is it a concentration problem, or some other kind of problem?

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: It's lack of concentration and the feasibility to actually... to focus and understand what's being said for a long period of time.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I cannot actually deal with a lot of people interacting... interacting and noise where I am.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And that's, as I told you, it's because of my psychological condition that is actually... it's worsening by time.

PC: So, Mohamed, we... we know you've been through a lot.

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PC: Do you... do you... do you bear any resentment towards

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members of the U.S. government, the American people, or other governments and people, as a result of what you've experienced?

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I... I... I bear no hatred or anything at all or... to... toward... toward... these feelings towards anybody, towards the United States government. I forgive them for all what they did.

PC: I... I've always found that hard to believe, as someone who is on the outside. Can you explain to me, or can you explain to us, why it is, how it is that you can move past?

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Forgiving the people makes you a lot ease... your life easier. When you don't bear any hatred in your... in your heart, you can live a happier life.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And... and on the other hand, it'd giving me the opportunity to live a better life in the future.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: In order to... to find peace in my future life and live peacefully.

PC: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

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DET: Welcome.

TRANS 2: Thank you.

PR: I've got one more question. If you were sitting in a café... if you were approved for transfer, sitting in a café in Saudi Arabia, and someone came to you and said, "I would like you to fight for ISIS, Daesh," what would your response be back to them? What would you do?

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: In Saudi Arabia now, the... the laws is that you have actually... if anybody approach you, asking for such things, you have to report this person...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... Because it's actually... it's... it's a... it's a... a combined actually benefit for you and the society to protect yourself and protect the society you live in.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: So, I'll... I'll immediately report this person.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I will... I will actually excuse myself for a few ma... for a few minutes.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

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TRANS 2: ... And I'm saying the truth. That's what I'm gonna do.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And because if we do not report these people, the problem will never... it will not resolve.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: We have to cooperate.

PR: Okay. Thank you...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

PC: ... Thank you.

PM: Mohamed, do you have anything...

PR: ... That'll be all, Ma'am...

PM: ... Further you wish to say?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: No. The only... I don't have anything else to add, except for to thank you.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I wish you and... success for you... wish you and myself success.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And you will know who is Mohamed in the future

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when you hear about the news in the rehab... from the rehab center.

DET: Thank you, very much.

PM: Mohamed, this concludes your participation in the hearing. The Periodic Board... excuse me, the Board will continue in a separate session. Your Personal Representative and your Private Counsel will remain and they'll continue to advocate on your behalf.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: The Board will deliberate and you'll be advised of the results.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: We're gonna take a small break to prepare for the witness. I ask that we all remain seated until further instructed by the Case Administrator

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

CA: We will take a 15-minute recess in order to set up the connection with the witness.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

[The detainee session closed at 1157, 16 June 2016.]

[END OF PAGE]

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[The witness session for ISN 63 opened at 1211, 16 June 2016.]

PM: So, the Personal Representative and Private Counsel, I understand you have a live witness who's been approved to provide unclassified testimony. Can you tell us the witness's name, title, and location?

(CONNECTIVITY DIFFICULTIES)

WIT: I think I can hear you.

PM: Okay. Go ahead with your testimony, please.

PC: And... and... and, Ma'am, would it... with the Board's permission, would it be acceptable for me to introduce Doctor Keram and to lead her through her testimony to make it faster?

PM: That's fine.

PC: Doctor Keram, can you hear me?

WIT: Yes.

PC: Doctor Keram, if you don't mind introducing yourself by... by name and title, just to begin with.

WIT: My name is Emily Keram, K-E-R-A-M, like mike. I'm a psychiatrist employed half-time by the Veterans Administration. I provide clinical care at a VA outpatient clinic in Santa Rosa, California. The other half of my practice is in forensic psychiatry. I'm also currently the president of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law.

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PC: Thank you, Doctor Keram, and... and would you mind, please, telling the Board how long you've been in practice?

(BMs CONFERRING)

PM: Can you repeat the question? I'm sorry.

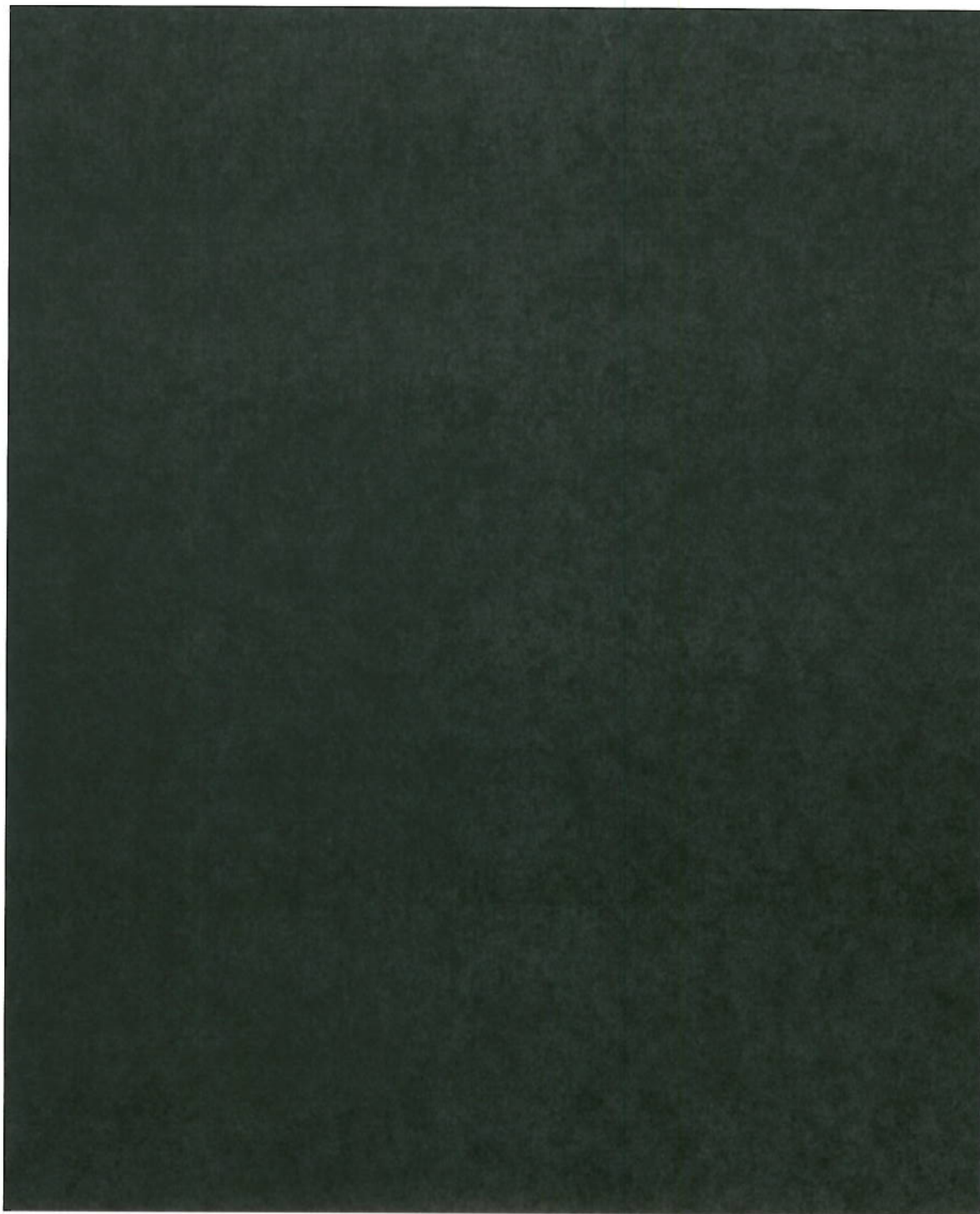
PC: Yes, Ma'am. Doctor Keram, would you mind, please telling the Board how long you have been in practice?


WIT: I've been in practice since 1992. I'm also board certified in psychiatry and neurology, as well as forensic psychiatry.

PM: And you know, sorry. This is... we... we've read your resume and CV. So, to Private Counsel and to the Doctor, if you... I don't feel like you have to take us through that, again. We accept that she's a... an expert and we're... we're looking forward to hearing her talk about Mohamed.

PC: Okay. Thank you, Ma'am. So... so, Doctor Keram, could you, please share with us your assessment of Mister al-Kahtani's psychiatric diagnosis prior to entering the custody of the United States?

WIT: 

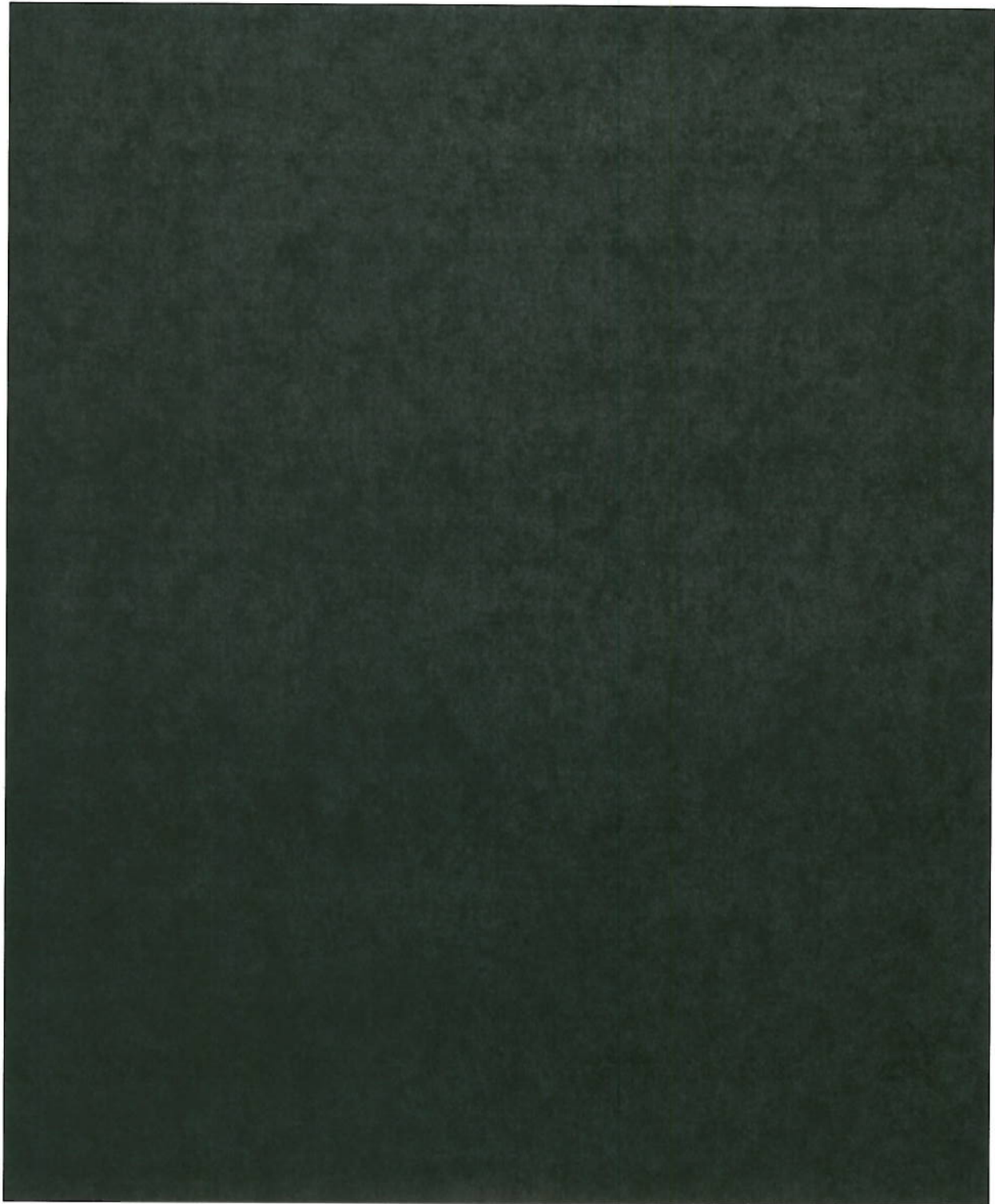


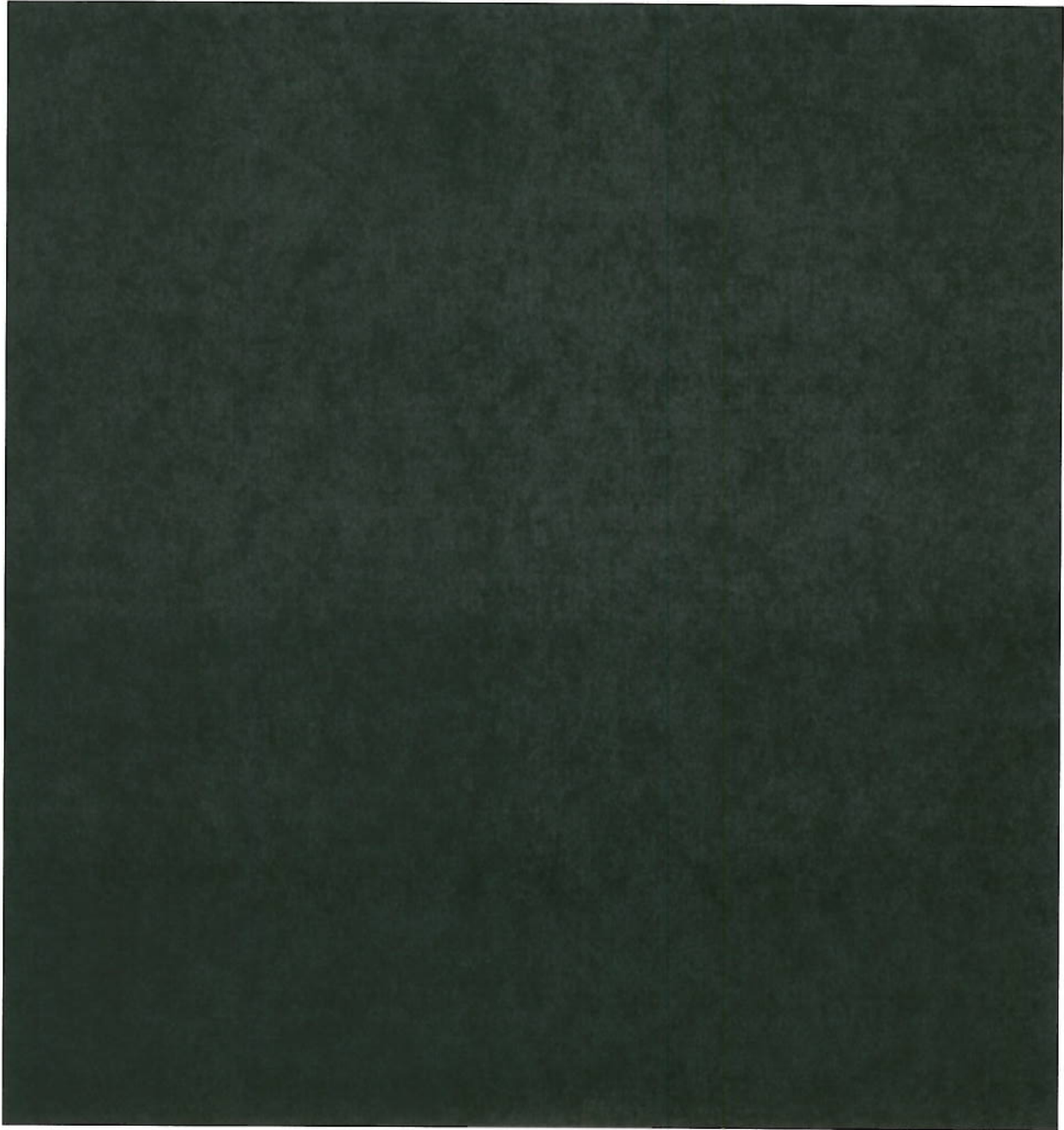


PC: Okay. Thank you, and... and... and, again, with your understanding that the Board has read your report, I'm... I'm going to ask you the next question, which is: what is the effect, in your opinion, of... if any, of... of these pre-existing mental illnesses manifested by Mister al-Kahtani on his decision making?

WIT:







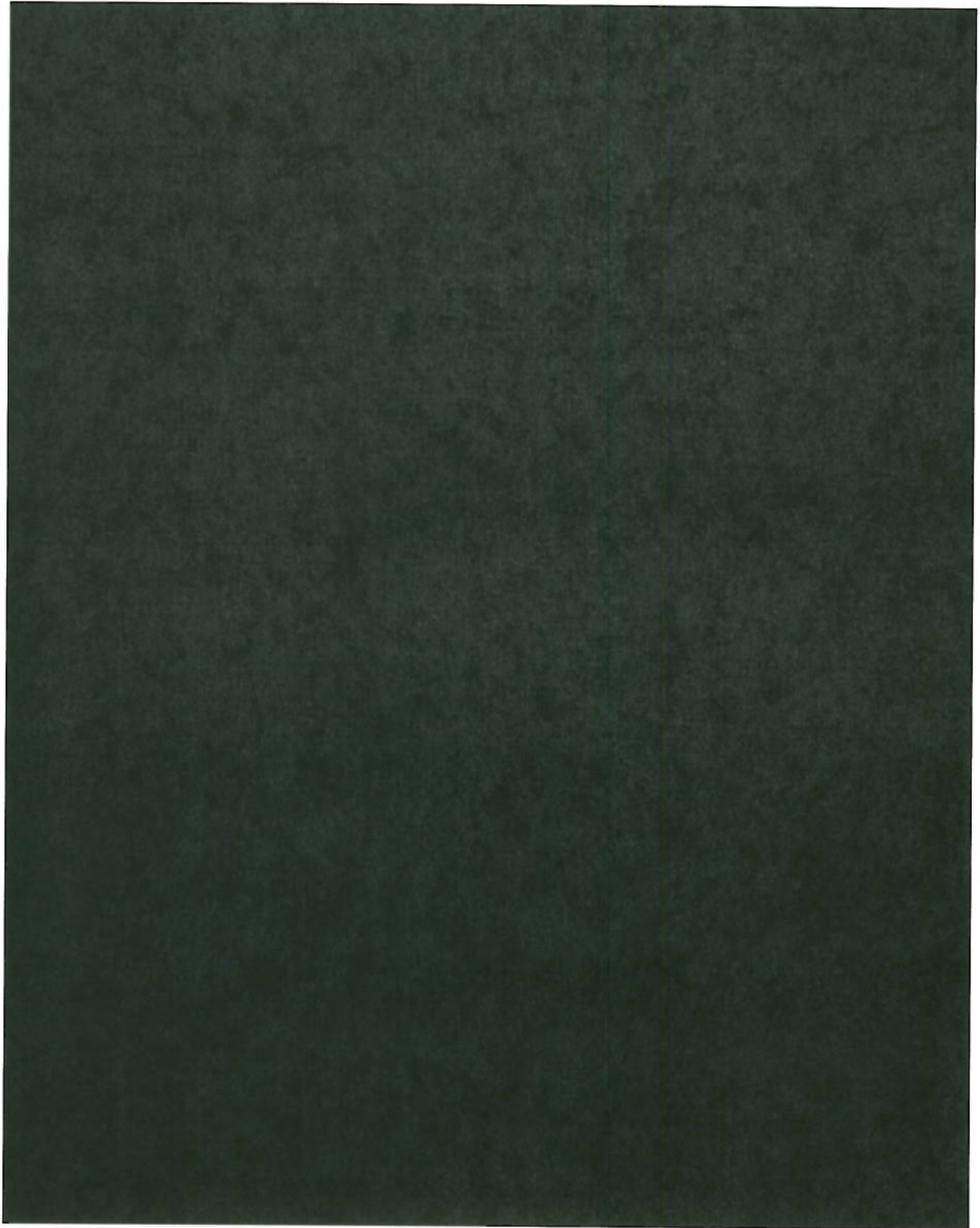
PC: And can you... can you elaborate a bit more on what happened to Mister al-Kahtani, as far as you understand it, from

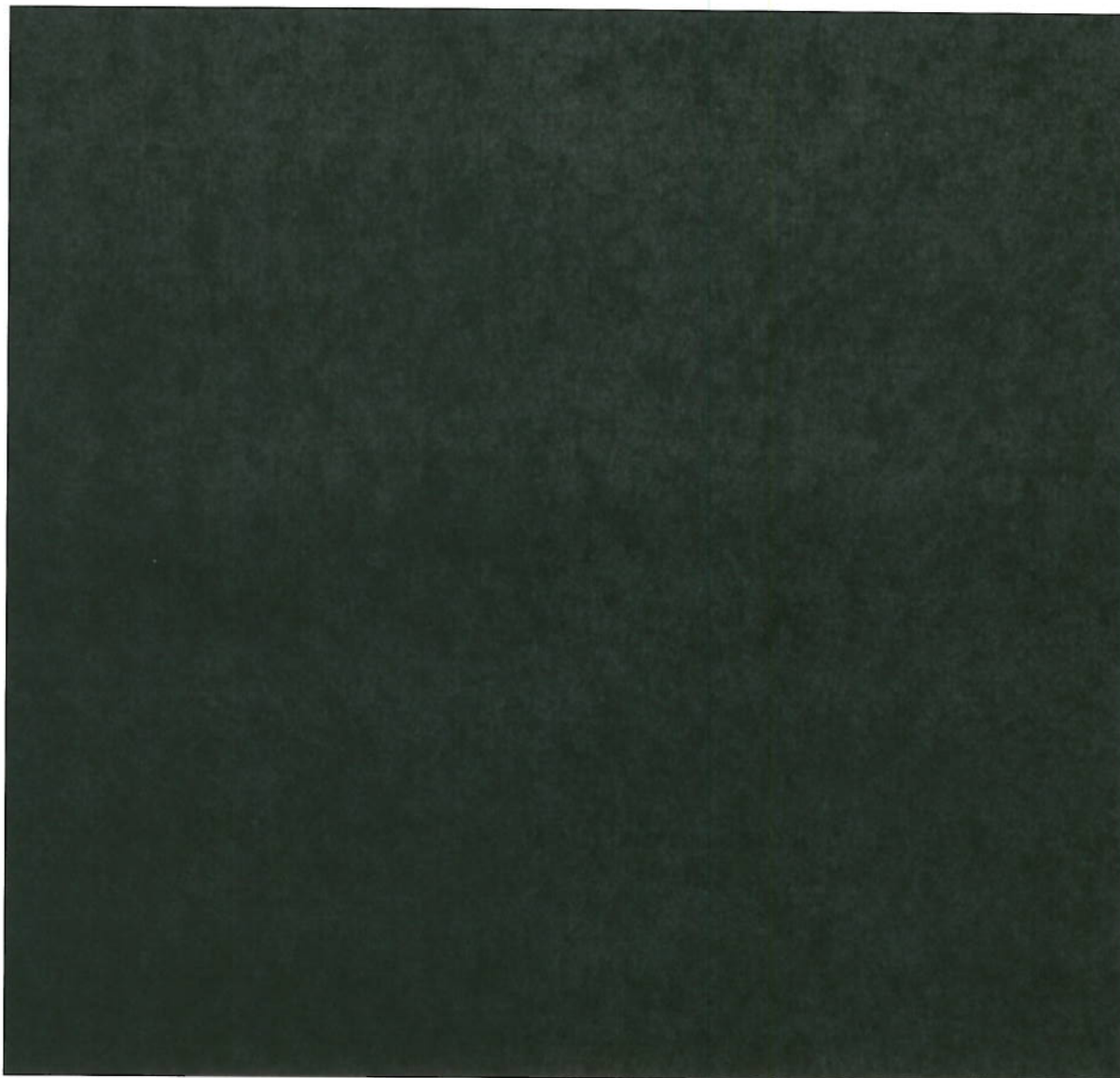
your review of the medical records, your interviews with him and with his family in the year 2000. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Could you just elaborate on that a bit more for the members of the Board?

WIT: [REDACTED]



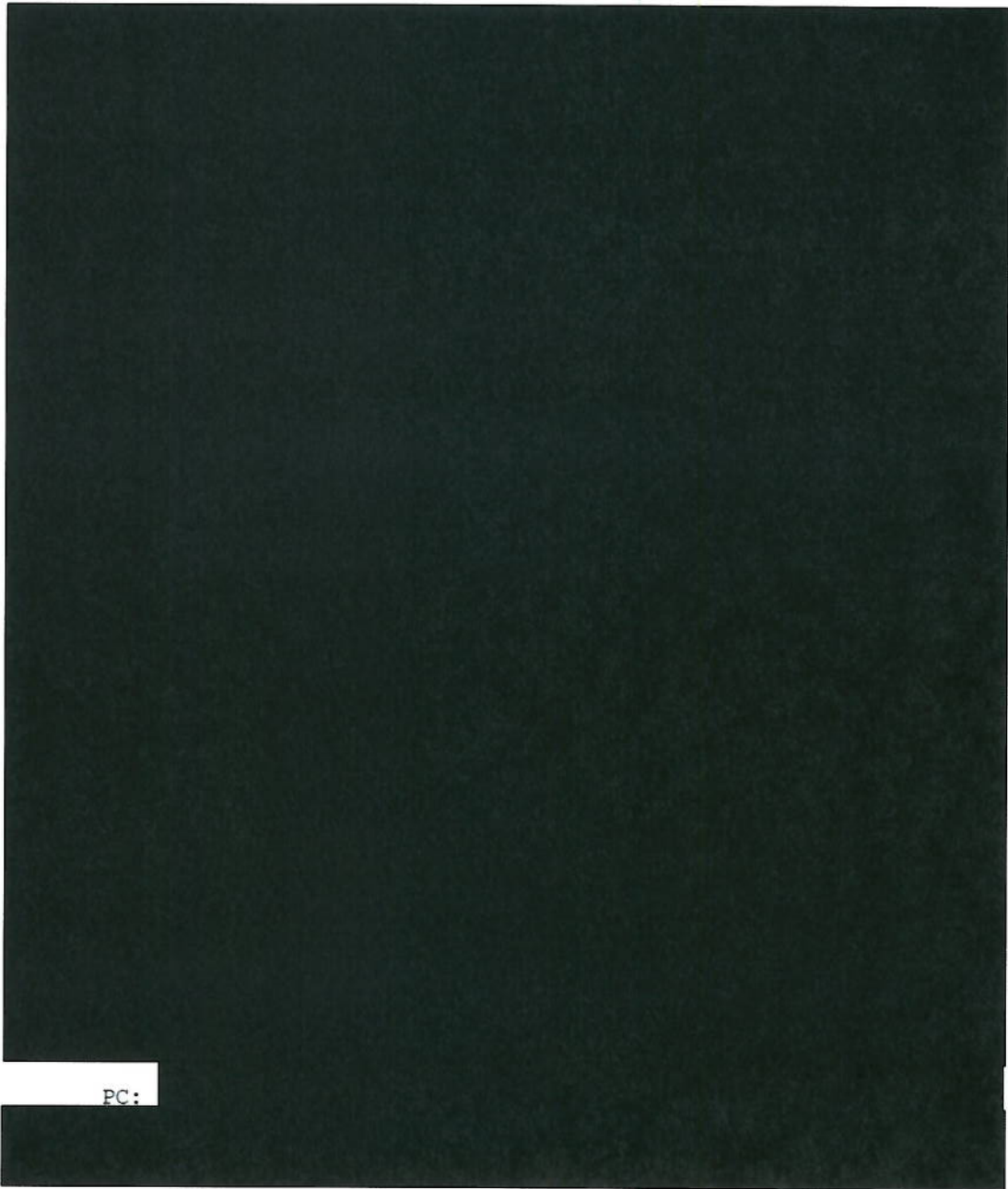




PC: And... and, Doctor Keram, I just have a handful more questions for you. What was the effect of these pre-existing mental illnesses on his vulnerability to the conditions of confinement and interrogation, while in U.S. custody?

WIT:





[REDACTED]

PM: Hey, I'm sorry. This is... you know, we... we were very cognizant of your request, for the Private Counsel, that we not go into sort of questions about his past. What we're interested in hearing from the doctor about is how all of this past, his illness, in her professional opinion, drives future threat. So, can we go there?

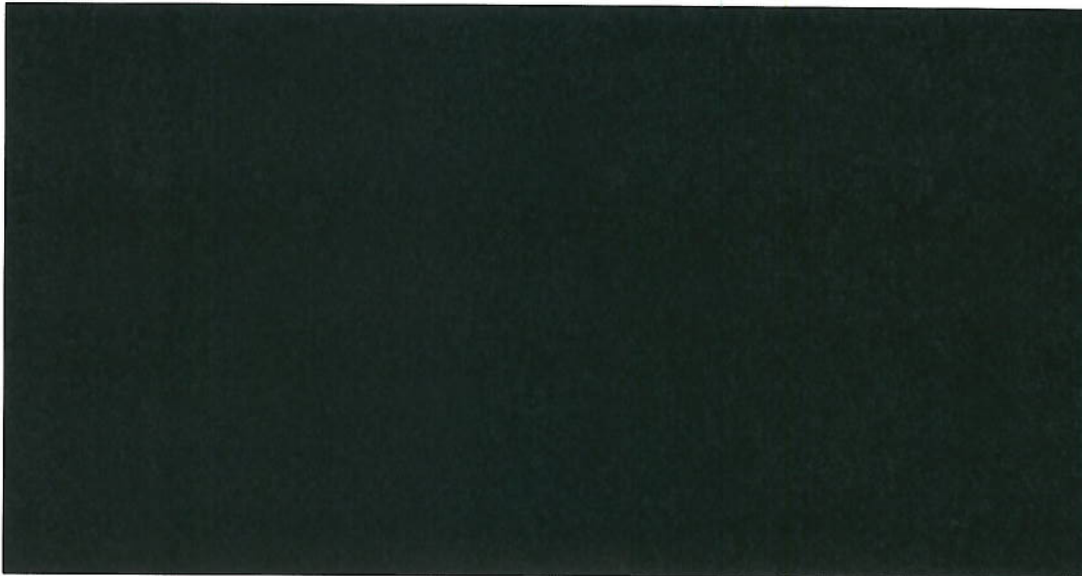
PC: Okay. Yes, Ma'am. So, Doctor Keram, let me ask you a different question, then. Let's start with the present and go into the future. Wha... what is... in your view, Doctor Keram, what is Mister al-Kahtani's current psychiatric diagnosis?

WIT: [REDACTED]

WIT: [REDACTED]

PC:



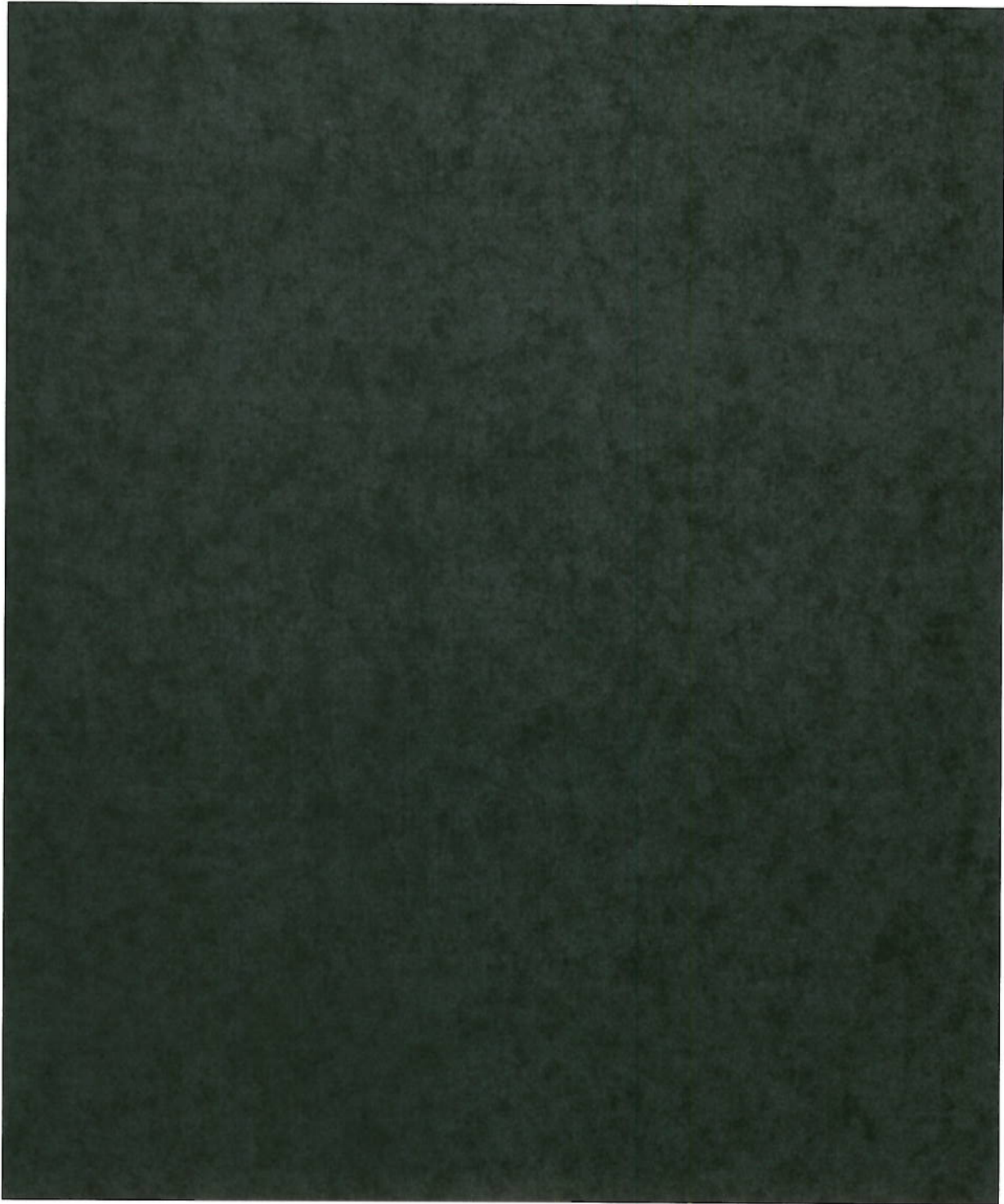


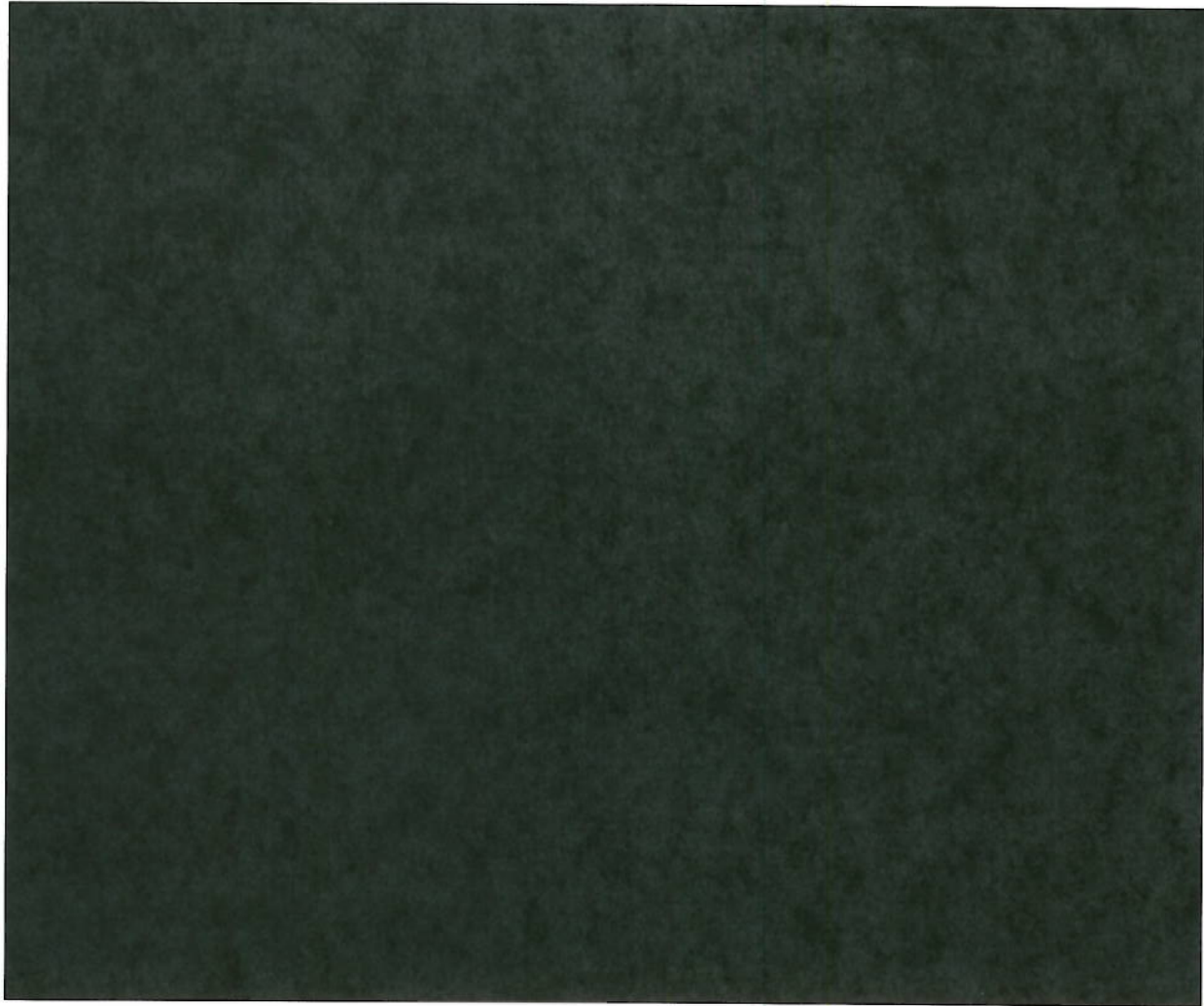
(BMs CONFERRING WHILE WIT IS SPEAKING)

PC: Okay. Thank you, Doctor Keram. So, looking... looking forward, how does all of that bode for the future? What are... what is your prognosis? What are your treatment recommendations? What's... what's the outlook like for Mister al-Kahtani, in your view?

WIT:







PC: And... and, then Doctor Keram, you... you spoke with his family. What, in... in your... in your opinion based on, you know, that conversation, do they appreciate the importance of... of a care regimen for Mister al-Kahtani? Should he be repatriated to Saudi Arabia, are they prepared to be involved in that? Wha... what was your sense of that, if any?

WIT: My sense... I spoke with his next oldest brother, and my sense is that they have a very deep appreciation. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] They... they would be very helpful in getting him clinical care and having him be compliant with clinical care. Although, I don't believe compliance would be an issue for him. I think he would be compliant, and they would also assist with the... the reader... the... the person who would read Qur'an with him. Really, his... his...

PC: Ma'am, (Inaudible)

WIT: ... One of his sisters particularly functioned as a nurse for him during the episodes [REDACTED] So, he was in her care as well as his mother's care. They would sit with him throughout the day and... and over the night, as well.

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PC: Doctor Keram, my last question: you... you mentioned earlier that, you know, that at some point, you know, he felt like he had no future. He felt ostracized from society in Saudi Arabia. From your conversations with him, from your evaluation, what... what... what are the factors that would prevent that from happening again in the future, from him feeling ostracized again, from him feeling like he has no future again?

WIT: I think the most important thing is that Mister al-Kahtani has accepted his limitations. Before, he was fighting against them, and he took great pains over and over again to try to prove that he could function by getting a job. I think the expectations that he has for himself are different now. I think that he would accept family support, and not put a burden on himself to be the provider for a future family. I think that he would accept that his own family would pro... would assist in providing him with financial support so that he could have his own family. So, he really put that level of stress on himself, which probably, you know, only exacerbated [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He's much more accepting of his disability, which is really, for all of our patients, you know, a big part of the battle of... of helping them settle down into a meaningful life.

PC: Tha... thank you, Doctor Keram.

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PR: Doctor Keram, the only question I have, you've spoken with Mister al-Kahtani a number of times for... for hours. What is your professional estimate on how long it would take to... to treat him, how long he would have to be in the rehabilitation facility, and... and... and this is an estimate in months or years. Ho... how long do you think it would take to... to make him a productive citizen in Saudi Arabia, if he is approved for transfer?

WIT: That's a difficult question to answer because it's highly individual and we... we... it... it would be based on factors that we can't measure at this particular time. So, what I will say is that it's not at all unusual for people to require inpatient or residential care for months or years, and... and... and for some people, it would be for the rest of their lives given his... his history and his current functioning.

PR: Okay. Well, that's all I have. Thank you.

(BMs CONFERRING)

BM: Thank you for being with us today, and... and your report was very helpful in... in understanding some of Mister al-Kahtani's psych... psychological issues. I wanted to talk a little bit about his current state of mind and the medication plan that was recommended to him. Do you have a sense of why he's not cooperating, right now, with the psychological team at gwa... GTMO

and why he's not taking his medications?

WIT: Yes, I... I spoke with him about that. This may be difficult to understand from an outsider's prospective, but he doesn't want to see any... any uniformed member of the medical or mental health staff because of the previous involvement of both medical and mental health staff in... in interrogations. And so, he's actually quite worried, and he said this to me while I was asking him questions, that information that he would give them would be used to develop future interrogation plans for either against him or against future detainees. He... he doesn't trust that uniformed clinicians are there for a doctor-patient relationship. He sees them as part of the interrogation apparatus...

BM: ... So... so... so, if I can... I can...

WIT: ... I... I just wanna mention one thing here which is that I've spent a lot of time in other cases discussing issues with the Joint Medical Group staff, both the behavioral health staff and the internists, and you know, I... I... I think they're readily available, they're clearly competent, they're clearly interested in detainee well-being, and so I don't have any sense that Mister al-Kahtani's fears are really borne out in reality, but I... I will say that, given what he has been through, they're not totally

irrational, and it would probably take him quite some time, even back in... in... in Saudi to... to work through those issues that he had.

BM: So... so... so, I'm just trying to understand the timeline because at some point, he stopped being involved in the interrogations. And then, subsequent to that, it's... it seems from, at least what I'm seeing, is that he was cooperating with the medical team and taking meds and was fairly stable. And then, at some point, he stopped.

WIT: Right. Yeah, that... that...

BM: ... So... so that's... that's...

WIT: ... I know... I know we're here to talk about him, but... but I... I've been involved in probably about a dozen detainee cases, and I will tell you that that's a very consistent pattern with the detainees as they misinterpret the role of the Joint Medical Group in... in their care, and... and that... that has changed over time. So...

BM: ... Okay. So... so...

WIT: There... there... for example, I was down there in 2009 at the time where there was a psychiatrist who had been able to establish rapport with the detainees to the point that they trusted that particular psychiatrist. So, you know, it... it has varied over time based on a lot of different factors, but I think

really, at this point, what I've seen over the last four years is that very few people want to have anything to do with the Joint Medical Group.

BM: Okay. So, just kind of looking... looking forward, what is your understanding of the Saudi rehabilitation program?

WIT: I haven't visited it myself, but I've spoken with a number of people who have visited there. The Saudi rehabilitation program is... it's a multi-disciplinary program. So, it's not just directed at medical and mental health care, but it's also directed at things that I think are... are equally important for... for Mister al-Kahtani, things like: developing a... reestablishing and reintegrating himself into his family... into... providing some financial assistance, some educational assistance, and perhaps if he's able to, even some occupational assis... I mean, my patients that function at his level, if they can work then, they typically... like I have a guy who's a dishwasher who, you know, is working for his sister in her restaurant. And so, it doesn't matter really if he shows up for work or not 'cause she'll step in for him. But anyway, so they may... they may provide him with some job skills that would help him with his... his sense of self-worth and self-confidence. They, like I said, would provide him with financial assistance. If he were released, they would provide him with...

with finding a wife which, as you know, is a very diff... different per... process in Saudi than it is here. And also, they would help him to the extent that he needs it, clarify... I'm trying to think... I'm figure out... I don't really have a... I haven't really thought about this, but in my understanding is that one of the helpful things about the Saudi rehabilitation program is that people... and... and I don't... I don't think this is the case for Mister al-Kahtani, but for people who have a distorted view of what Islam is, that they provide scholarship about that from very credible sources. Again, I'm not sure that that's an issue for him, but I think it has been for other people who have been through the program.

BM: And... and do you think he would cooperate with the Saudi rehabilitation program?

WIT: Absolutely. I... I have no doubt about that.

BM: And wha... why is that?

WIT: Because he... his main goal is to get back to his family. It doesn't necessarily mean that he has to live with them if he's, you know, confined to the residential program indefinitely. I think that would be fine with him. When I've interviewed detainees who had made me anxious, there is still a remnant of ideology that they cannot contain, that is gonna leak out during my lengthy... I... I like to spend lots and lots of time with these

guys because the... the more time you spend with them, the more material you're gonna collect. Some people will start to leak ideology. Some people won't, and the people who don't leak ideology, have either never had the ideology or have moved beyond it. I... I... I don't sense... and I could be wrong about this, obviously, but I'm missing this hidden agenda here because the compulsion to try to recruit me, okay, you know, the ideology is so strong. The... the... the detainees that I've worked with who have been released and who have been successful in reestablishing safe lives and productive lives did not leak ideology, did not try to recruit me, and more importantly, had a visceral yearning to get back to their families. That was almost like the North Star. It was almost like the North Star that they were navigating by, that... that desire to be with their family, had nothing to do with the ideology. I never heard that from several detainees who have been repatriated and are doing fine, and I've never heard that from Mister al-Kahtani. So, you know, one of the ways we assess risk, or future behavior, is looking at people who have similar risk factors or the absence of risk factors and see how they do under those conditions. So, the population that I would compare Mister al-Kahtani to, that population has done well.

BM: Thank you.

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(BMs CONFERRING)

BM: Afternoon, Doctor. Humor me just... just for a minute. If I were trying a criminal case in the District of Columbia... defending one, actually, and if I wanted to raise an insanity defense, I'd have to show by preponderance of the evidence that the person I'm defending lacked a substantial capacity to understand what he did was wrong. In your view, can Mister Kahtani [sic] distinguish between what is right and what is wrong?

WIT: You're talking about con... currently?

BM: I'm talking about currently, yes.

WIT: Absolutely. He can distinguish between right and wrong.

BM: You think there was a time when he couldn't?

WIT: I'll be frank with you. I... I interviewed him as part of a habeas evaluation, which was gonna take place in two parts. So, I spent the first part of the evaluation covering the... the material that you saw in my report as well as some other subjects. I planned actually to go down and see him this week... this past week, finish up the habeas evaluation, and was going to talk with him about his recollection of what had happened in between the time that he left the hospital in Mecca and his being taken into American custody. So, I have... I... I have not done that formal,

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retrospective mental state evaluation that would lead me to be able to do an insanity defense on him at that time, but my... my sense is that [REDACTED]

Now, I can't say that to... you know, to... to the degree that I would need to to testify to that or to, you know, form a medical opinion about that; and I realize that it may not be helpful to you, but that's where I am with it.

BM: Okay, no. Thank you.

WIT: I can say that, at this point, to a reasonable... I mean to... to... you know, with medical certainty that he can recognize right from wrong.

BM: Thank you.

PM: So, I think one of the difficulties, at least for me, going into deliberation would be that he still seems to suffer from all of the same ailments and conditions that he did in 1999, 2000. So, he would still be susceptible to manipulation and would... would still have these challenges being...

WIT: ... Just because he's susceptible to manipulation at one point in time...

PM: ... Can I... let... let me...

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WIT: ... Doesn't mean that he would continue to be afterwards, particularly given the... the disastrous of consequences of his...

PM: ... Let me... let me... so, to help you with your answer... to help you with your answer, let me finish my question...

(PM AND WIT TALKING OVER EACH OTHER)

WIT: ... **(Inaudible)** For example, other detainees that... that I have worked with who were vulnerable for other reasons, perhaps financial, perhaps... oh shoot, you know what, I'd have to think about the... the spectrum of detainees... are no longer susceptible to manipulation. In fact, they have told me, as has Mister al-Kahtani that they don't trust their judgment anymore, but they would... to seek assistance from family members whose judgments they do trust if they were presented with some type of suggestion about let's do this or let's do that.

(BMs CONFERRING WHILE WIT IS SPEAKING)

(PC TRYING TO GAIN CONNECTIVITY WHILE WIT IS SPEAKING)

PC: Doc... Doc... Doctor, I don't think you can hear us. We... we didn't hear much of that, but I... I believe the Presiding Member had a question. Can... can you hear us, or...

WIT: ... Yeah. I don't know if I can hear you or not. I can hear you when I can hear you.

(LAUGHTER)

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WIT: Sorry.

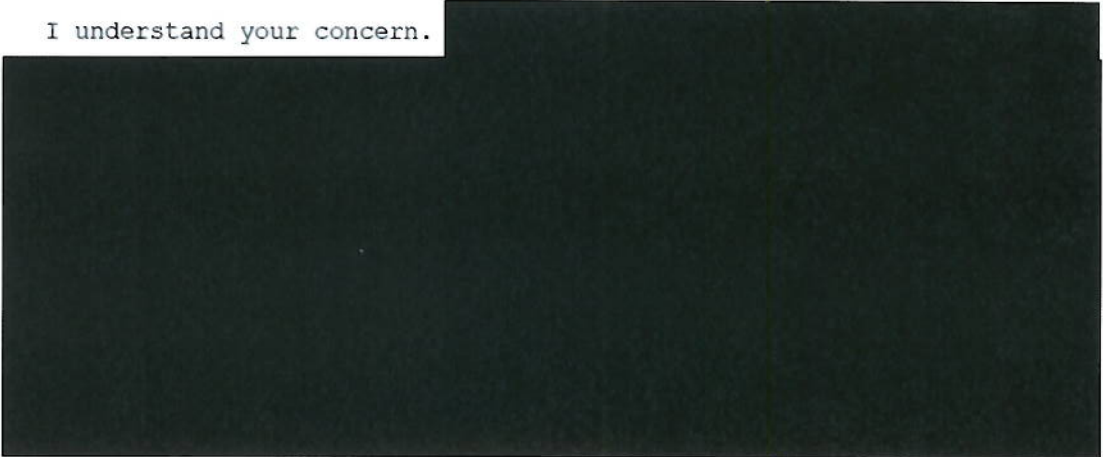
PM: Okay. To... to help you with your answer, I'm gonna finish my question... and I heard some of your... your previous comments, but again, it seems like many of the same conditions that existed for him in the past, will exist for him in the future. He still has severe mental illness. You... you mentioned he has somewhat low function ability. So, there may be that feeling of being on the outside. You know, his family took care of him in the past. We're gonna rely on the family to take care of him in the future. The Saudi state had, you know, taken care of him in the form of a commitment, at one point. We're talking about now a rehabilitation program. So, I heard a little bit of... of what you were saying about detainees when they go back, kind of more relying on the family and trusting them for judgment. But it's going to be difficult, at least for me, going into the... into the deliberation, since we're looking at future threat, to be able to asses that element that his illness plays and... and that the conditions around me play in his susceptibility to returning to fight. So, can you talk about what conditions you think maybe have changed or what has changed in him that can help with that deliberation?

WIT: First of all, he doesn't have any desire to fight. In

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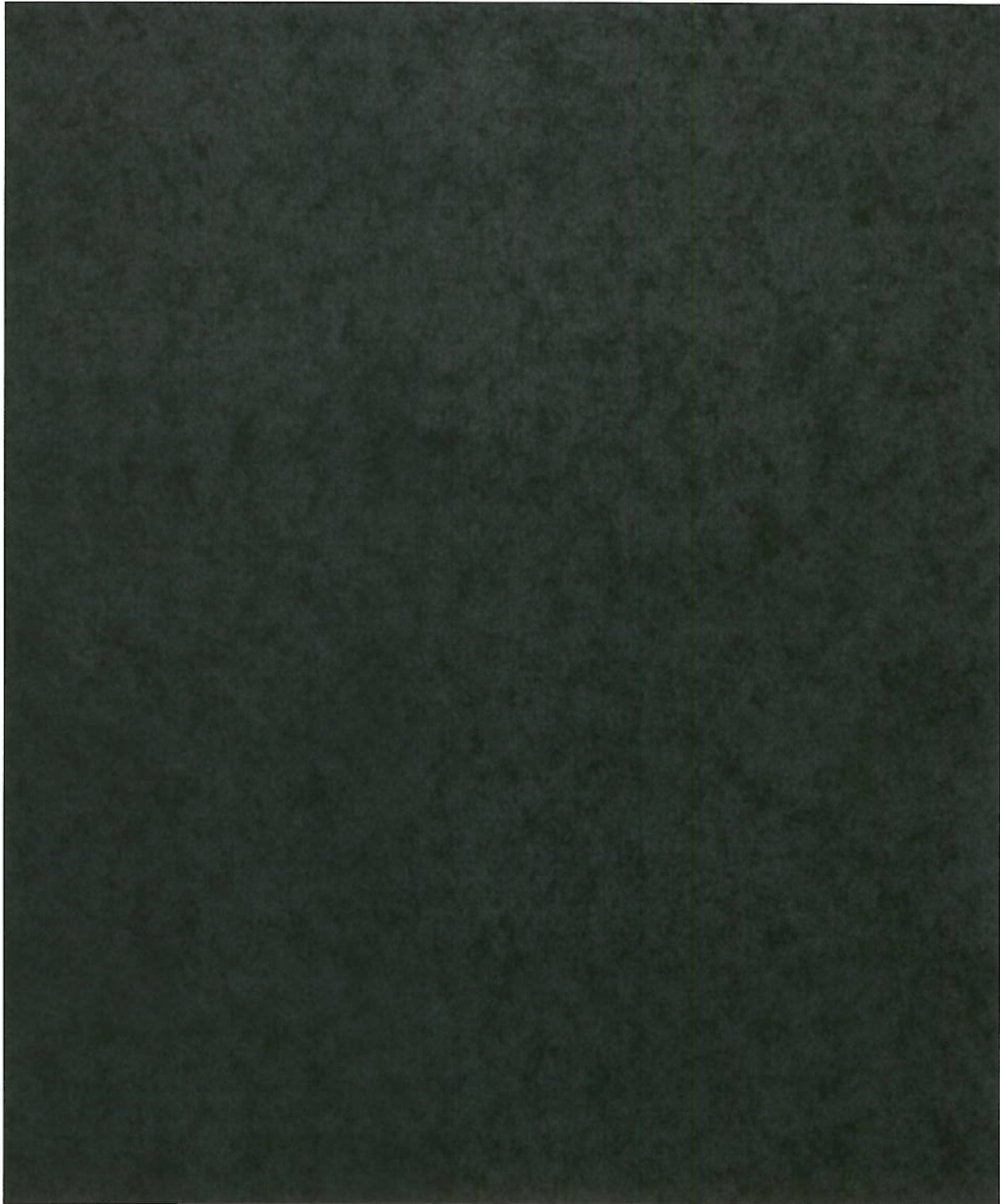
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fact, he abhors violence and he doesn't have any desire to exact revenge. He and I did discuss that. He doesn't hold America, as a whole, responsible for anything that's happened to him or... or Muslims in general. So, the motive is missing, and I think the motive will continue to be missing. As... as many... as this is the case for many people who have been traumatized, Mister al-Kahtani doesn't wish to inflict harm on anybody else ever again. So, I... I don't think his moti... and, he would be able to understand, certainly, an... any type of attempted recruitment towards violence, and he would resist that. And as I mentioned, he would also rely on his family's judgment. There's no indication that his family is radicalized in any way. He would rely on his family's judgment, also, if... if he did get into a situation where he wanted to talk with somebody about something he heard or was exposed to. I understand your concern.




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PM: Some. What are the fa... what are the other factors that you are... you're referencing that are no longer present? What else has changed?

WIT: Give... give me a minute to think ab... about that. I'm going... I'm just reviewing in my head and... and looking at my notes some of the conversations that we've had.

PM: Okay.

WIT:



PM: All right. That's fine. That's... that's helpful.

(BMs CONFERRING)

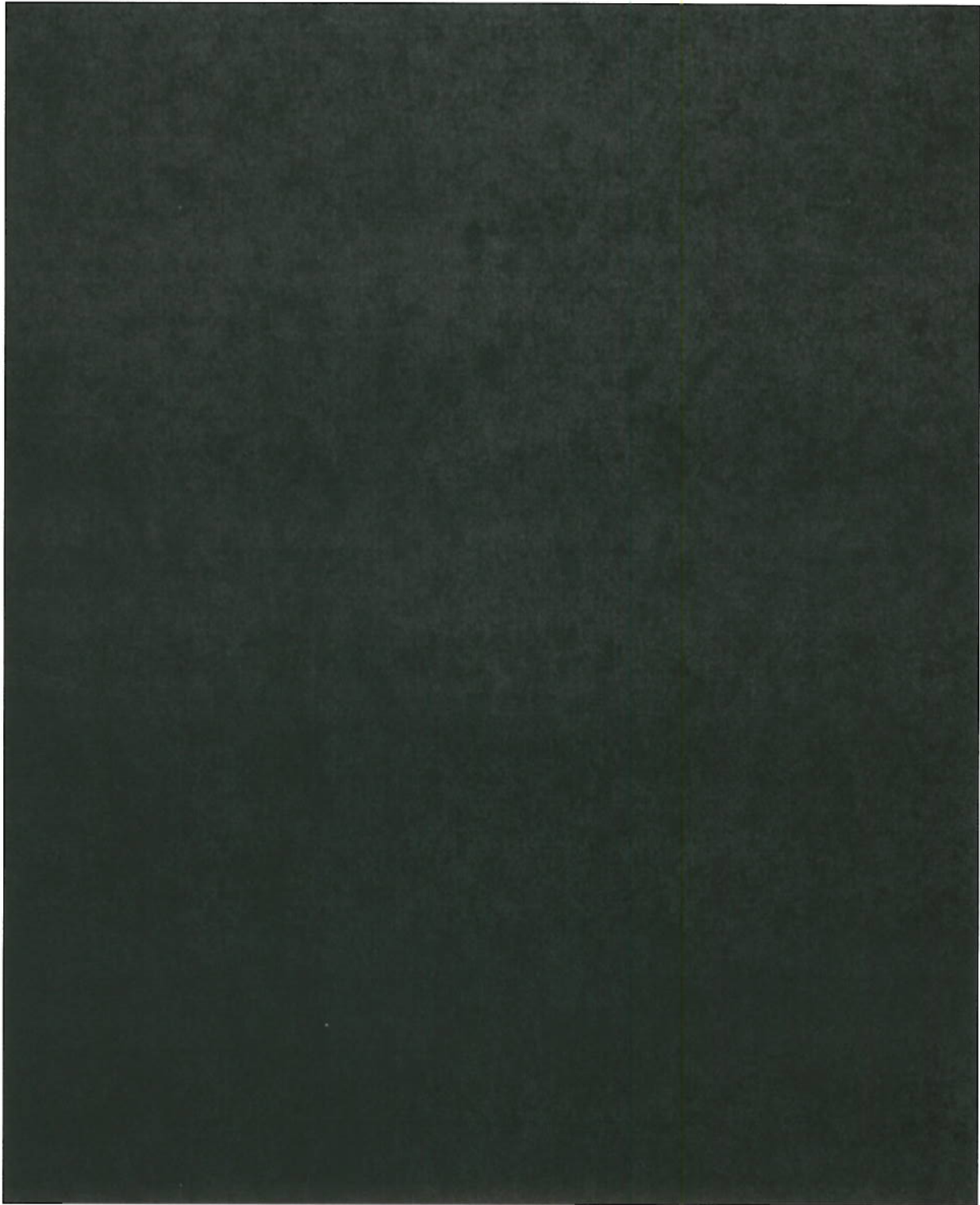
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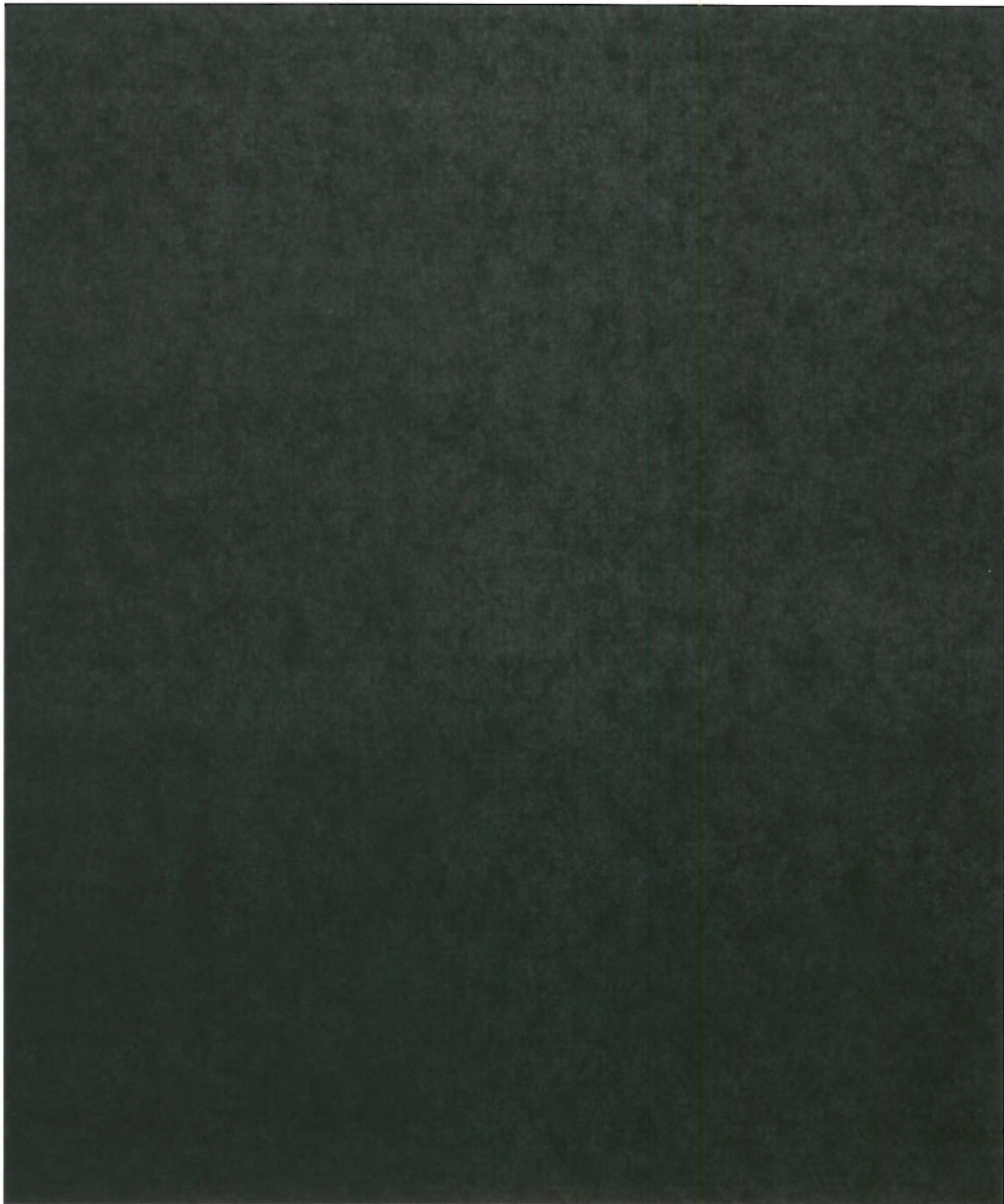
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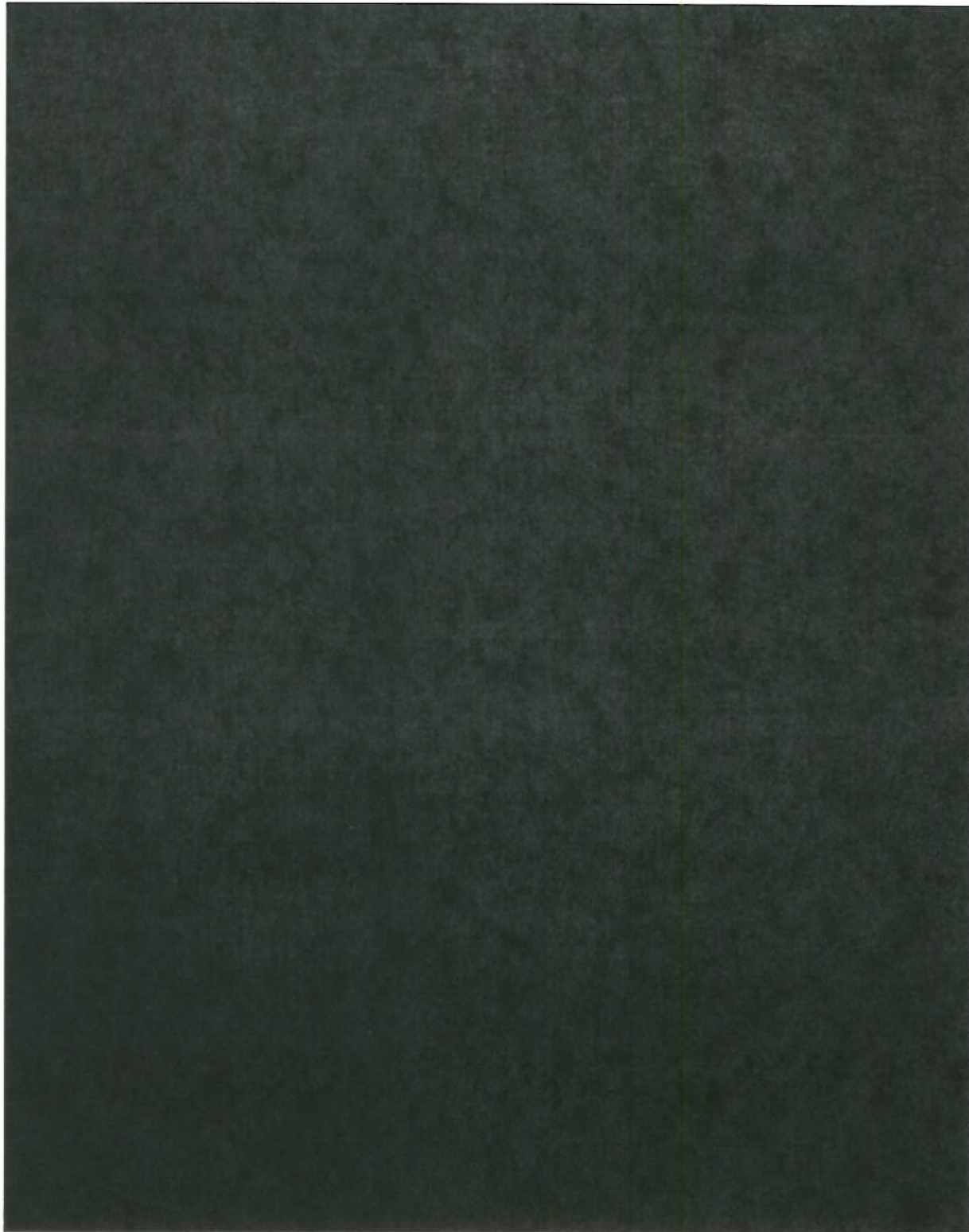
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BM: Doctor, following up on my colleague's questions, I have a problem in my mind reconciling two different pictures of... of... Mister al-Kahtani. One is of him lying nude in a dumpster in Saudi Arabia; and the other is being trained... allegedly, trained well enough to be able to be the 20th hijacker. During this entire time, he's suffering from the same mental illnesses the entire time. So, I mean, how... how can I reconcile these two conflicting portraits of this man? Is he one in the same or is... these two... [REDACTED] or what is it?

WIT: I'm gonna... I'm gonna... I... I... that is such an excellent question, and if you don't mind, what I'd like to do is answer it by example. [REDACTED]







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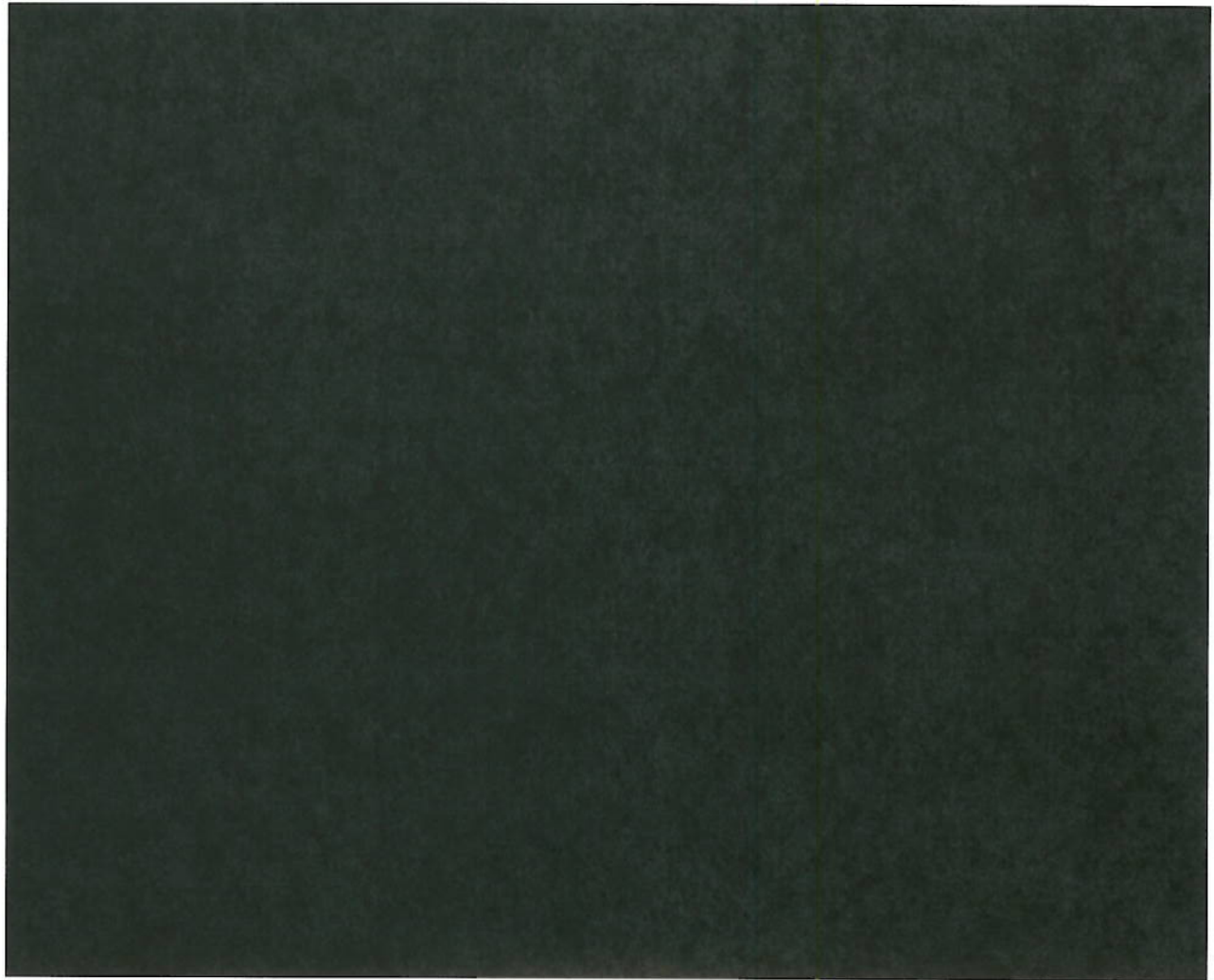
BM: So... and again, you know, we haven't... we haven't begun deliberating today, but whether Mister al-Kahtani remains in detention or whether a decision's made that he's gonna be transferred, there is gonna be a period of time between either of those things happening. What type of treatment do you think he could benefit from, if anything, while he's in Guantanamo, right now?

WIT: It's tough for me to answer that. I mean, obviously he would benefit from mental health treatment, but the problem is this:



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BM: Do you... do you... do you...

WIT: ... But... but I don't know, I think we have to... we have to make allowances for why he doesn't want to see the Joint Medical Group.

BM: Do you... do you think it could benefit him of starting to build potentially some of those relationships with the Saudi

representatives from the Saudi rehab program?

WIT: Absolutely... absolutely, and I... I tried to do that for in other instances when detainees has... have... have left, but a... absolutely. I mean, if there's any way for him to have either face-to-face or indirect communication with people in that program... first of all, they may be able to help him accept treatment here if he knows that it's the same treatment that he would receive in Saudi, okay? So, they may be able to act as people who detoxify or... or de... decontaminate JMG, the Joint Medical Group, from the... the previous experiences that he's had that were negative...

BM: ... Do... do... do... do you... do you think he... do you think he would be...

WIT: ... That they could... that... that would be an excellent function for them to serve to legitimize the... the... what I believe are appropriate and competent caregivers... clinicians there...

BM: ... Do... do you... do you think he would be open to doing that?

WIT: Well, I don't know whether or not he would be open to doing that, but it... and I don't know for sure whether or not they would be able to do that, but that is a potential function that they could serve. But even more important, him being able to

establish relationships with people who may treat him... or who will treat him if he were repatriated into the rehabilitation program, would be en... enormously therapeutic for him right now, even if it didn't involve medication because it would... the therapy that he would be able to get... ev... even though it's just supportive therapy, even if it's not, you know, work books and things like that we do at the VA, would... would decrease his symptoms during the tenancy of... of his custody.

BM: Thank you.

(BMs CONFERRING)

PM: All right. Thank you, Doctor. That was all of our questions. Personal Representative, Private Counsel, I think we kind of reversed it. You started with questions, but do you have any final ones before we conclude with Doctor Keram?

PC: Ma'am, with your permission, I have three further questions for Doctor Keram.

PM: Okay.

PC: Thank you, Ma'am. Doctor Keram, thank you for your testimony. How difficult, in your opinion, is it for someone like Mister al-Kahtani to do something like this... like this Periodic Review Board here?

WIT: I'm sorry. I didn't... I didn't understand the last part

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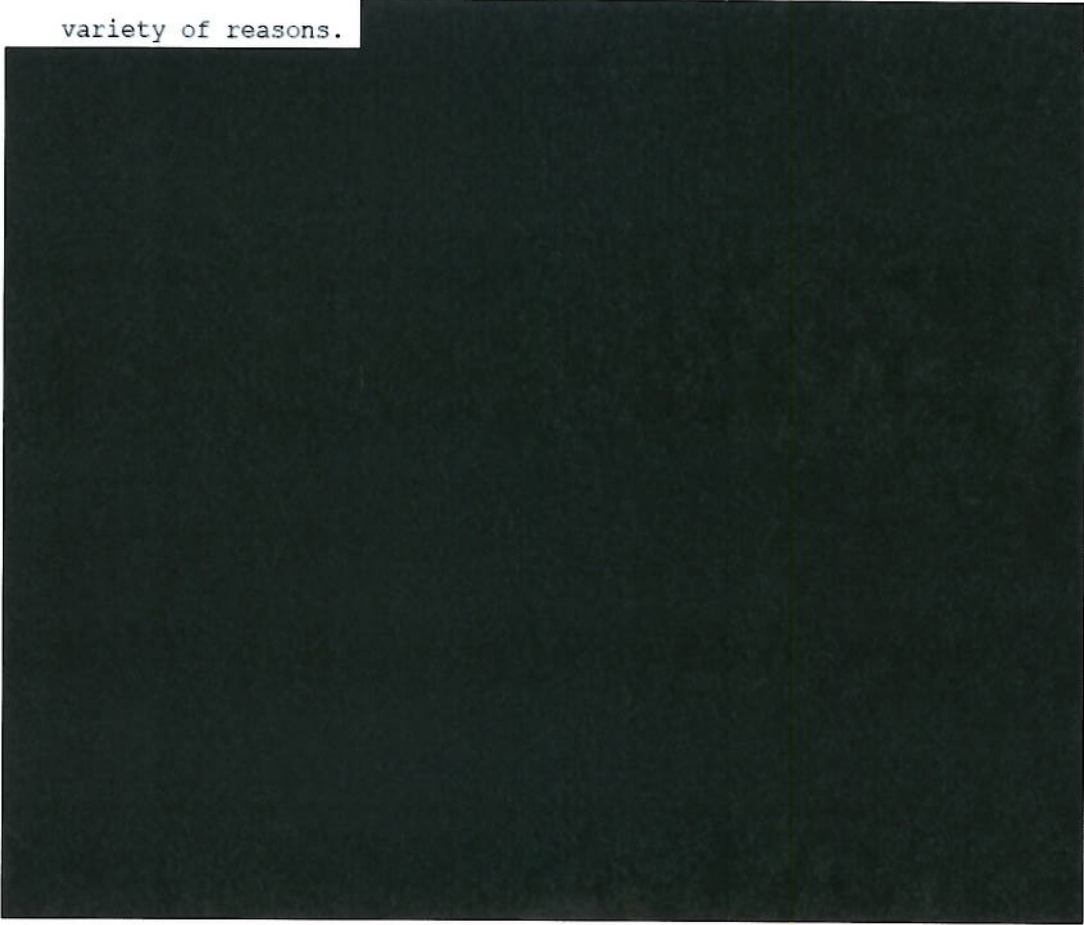
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of the question. How difficult would it be for somebody like
Mister al-Kahtani to what?

PC: To... to... to do something like what he did today,
appearing before the Periodic Review Board, this kind of
performance moment.

WIT: I'm sure that it would be enormously difficult for a
variety of reasons.



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[REDACTED]

So... I'm trying to think if there's anything else I want to say about how difficult it would've been for him. You know, it's also very shameful for him if you discussed any of the treatment that he had that robbed him of his dignity or honor. So, that kind of... you know, self-talk when you're feeling ashamed of yourself is painful and he may be experiencing some of that, as well.

PC: And... and is it... is it possible to, you know, over-estimate Mister al-Kahtani's understanding or ability... in other words, Doctor Keram, you know, can someone like him, in your experience, present well... present better than how they actually are?

WIT: Absolutely... absolutely, and that... that's why I talked so long about Bob. I... I think people really view mental ill... let me... let me just back up and say, we have a huge push in the VA to talk about the invisible wounds, okay, and to legitimize invisible wounds. So, you know, people with mental illness can present very well and they can hold it together very well because they're working very hard to present well and normal, and... and also to rise to the... the task at hand, okay, but... but there are invisible


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wounds with mental illness. So, you... you... you don't see the disruption in his brain chemistry and see an amount of effort and energy that it takes for him to... to present for an hour and a half as, you know, somebody who's well... relevantly intact. The other thing I wanted... the other point I wanted to make is that non-psychiatric or non-mental health people, even... even physicians who aren't non-psychiatric... who... who don't work in psychiatry and mental health, often think that mental illness occurs as an on/off switch, and either you're nuts or you're not nuts, okay; but it's really... for the mentally ill person, it's... it's more of a rheostat. You're not gonna have the exact same symptom presentation every single day of your life, you know, it... like I said, it's really on a rheostat. And so, there's gonna be times where Mister al-Kahtani is going to be able to really pull himself together, present himself well despite the enormous distress that he's feeling.



PC: And... and... and, Doctor Keram, given... given the... the treatment means, options available at Guantanamo, as you understand them, and given Mister al-Kahtani's, you know, specific

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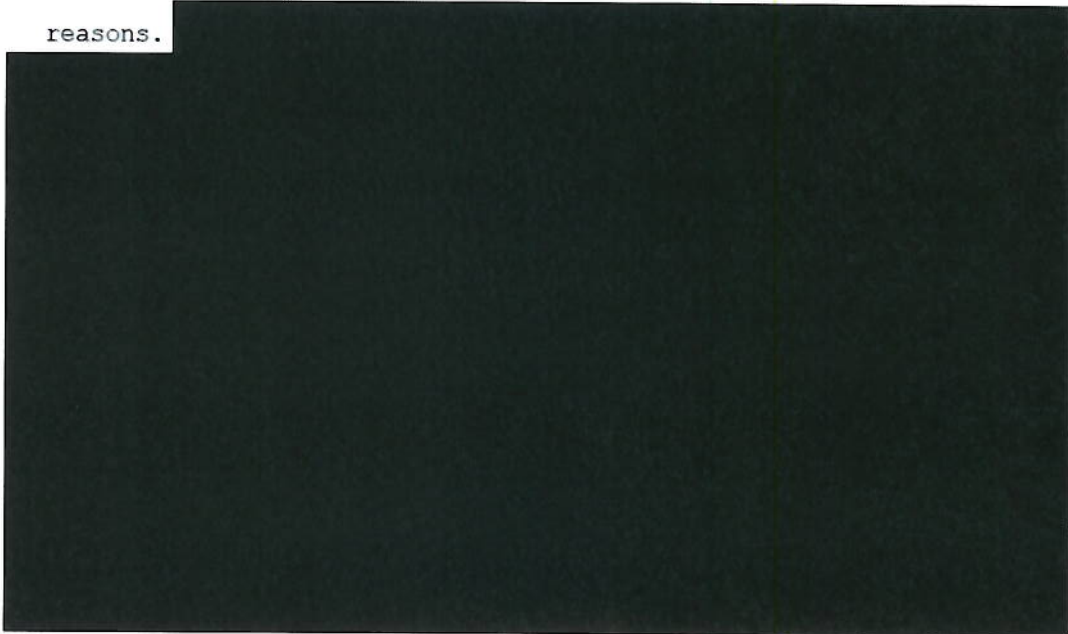
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background in this place... in U.S. custody, can he get better at Guantanamo?

WIT: No. He won't get better at Guantanamo. You know, I... I... there's... there's a... there's a... there are a lot of different reasons.



(PC SPEAKING WHILE WIT IS SPEAKING)

WIT: ... I... I have a patient who's a Vietnam vet, he was a POW, and you know... you know, he's still... he's still symptomatic to this day, but... but better than he is out of the conditions. I'm not gonna compare what he went through to... to GTMO because they're obviously different experiences, but he... he... he... you know, he... he's getting... he's getting better outside of the environment in

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which the trauma took place.

PC: And... and your understanding of, sort of the... the context... the traumatic context for Mister al-Kahtani specifically is the... would you characterize that as the U.S. custodial setting? Is that... is that what we're talking about?

WIT: (Inaudible)

PC: I'm sorry. Doctor Keram, did you hear me?

WIT: Can you repeat the question?

PC: Yeah. Your... your understanding of the context... the traumatic context for Mister al-Kahtani specifically... would you characterize that as the U.S. custodial setting?

WIT: Yes.

PC: Okay, and... and just my last question... you're... because... because the Board is essentially engaged in an assess... as a... in a threat assessment... or threat mitigation assessment, as well, you... you touched on this earlier, but... but I'd like you to maybe elaborate on it a little bit. My understanding from what you said earlier was that there was some way to measure propensity towards violence based on someone's mental health condition. Could you just tell us a bit more about that?

WIT:



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[REDACTED]

(BMs CONFERRING WHILE WIT IS SPEAKING)

WIT: ... Would look highly associated with substance abuse and not mental illness. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] If, you know, if you look at the 700 or so Guantanamo detainees that came and went, I... I... I can't think of anyone, other than him, that I know about who had a pre-existing psychiatric diagnosis to... you know, of... like he did. That's what makes his case so unusual.

PC: How... how would you rate the likelihood that he would engage in violence in the future... Mister al-Kahtani?

WIT: You know, in my forensic practice, I... I specialize in violence risk assessments in... in a lot of different settings. So I... I consult with... with federal and local law enforcement agencies. I also act as a consultant to public officials and... and famous people... celebrities ... we... we have a standardized way of doing a violence risk assessment, and if... if... if I were to use the information that I have about Mister al-Kahtani, and process that

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information through a standard psychiatric assessment of future violence, it would not predict future violence on... on his part. The... the factors that predict future violence, commonly, are missing from his history and the factors that protect against future violence are... are manifold in his history.

PC: Thank you so much, Doctor.

(BMs CONFERRING)

(PC AND PR CONFERRING)

PC: Thank you, Ma'am.

PM: All right. Thank you. And Doctor Kareem [sic] and... and I apologize, I think I'm probably miss... putting the accent in the wrong place in your name, but thank you for participating, and this concludes the witness portion. We'll take a small break just to readjust the technology, and so, I'm asking that we stay seated. I wanna make sure, though, for Board Members, you okay if we just push right through?

(NON-VERBAL RESPONSE FROM BMs)

PM: All right. So, GTMO we're just gonna take this break to get the technology reset, push through, and come back to you for the classified session.

PR: Yes, Ma'am.

[The witness session closed at 1322, 16 June 2016.

[END OF PAGE]

ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYM KEY

BM: BOARD MEMBER

DET: DETAINEE

PC: PRIVATE COUNSEL

PM: PRESIDING MEMBER

PR: PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

TRANS 1: TRANSLATOR ONE (LOCATED AT PRS HQ)

TRANS 2: TRANSLATOR TWO (LOCATED AT GUANTANAMO BAY)

WIT: WITNESS