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1 CA: This Periodic Review Board hearing is now convened at 0911  
2 hours 14 October 2021, with regard to the following  
3 detainee: Omar Mohammed Ali Al-Rammah (ISN 1017).. As a  
4 reminder the unclassical portion of these processing are  
5 being reordered for the purpose of generating a transcript  
6 to be posted on the PRS website.

7 HQ Translator: Translates above.

8 CA: Representatives from the following agencies are present and  
9 are members of the Board: Department of Defense, Department  
10 of State. Department of Justice, Department of Homeland  
11 Security, Office of the Director of National Intelligence  
12 and Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.  
13 The following personnel are also present: Legal Advisor to  
14 the Board, Case Administrators, Personal Representative,  
15 Private Counsel, translators, the detainee and the Security  
16 Officer.

17 HQ Translator: Translates above.

18 CA: The detainee's Personal Representative, the detainee, and  
19 translator are located at the detention facility, U.S.  
20 Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. They are attending via  
21 video teleconference. The detainee has waived translation  
22 of the unclassified summary, the Personal Representative's  
23 statement. The unclassified summary has been posted to the  
24 Periodic Review Secretariat website. Foreign, national and  
25 local media; Foreign Government Officials and  
26 Representatives from Non-Governmental Organizations may be  
27 observing this session.

28 HQ Translator: Translates above.

29 PM: This Board is convened to determine whether continued law  
30 of war detention is warranted for Omar Mohammed Ali Al-  
31 Rammah (ISN 1017) to protect against a continuing  
32 significant threat to the security of the United States.

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33 From here on forward we will refer to the detainee as  
34 Zakariya. This session of this hearing is unclassified.

35 HQ Translator: Translates above.

36 PR: Zakariya this is your Period Review Board to determine  
37 whether continue Law of War detention is warranted in your  
38 case. Continued Law of War detention will be warranted if  
39 it is necessary to protect against a continuing significant  
40 threat to the security of the United States. The focus of  
41 this hearing is on the threat you may pose to the United  
42 States and its interest if transfer of released from U.S.  
43 custody. It is not on the lawfulness of detention.

44 HQ Translator: Translates above.

45 CA: The Personal Representative and Private Counsel are your  
46 representative to assist you during this process. Finally  
47 the translators ensure that everyone understands your  
48 statements and that you understand what is being said  
49 during the hearing.

50 HQ Translator: Translates above.

51 CA: Personal Representative and Private Counsel as the detainee  
52 had an opportunity to review the Unclassified Summary?

53 HQ Translator: Translates above.

54 PR: Yes, Sir.

55 PM: Thank you. I will now read the UNCLASSIFIED SUMMARY:

56 Omar Muhammad Ali al-Rammah (ISN 1017) probably was a low-  
57 level mujahidin fighter in Bosnia during the mid-1990s  
58 before becoming a facilitator for an al-Qa'ida affiliated  
59 extremists in the late 1990s. He may have trained at al-  
60 Qa'ida-associated camps in Afghanistan before relocating to  
61 Georgia in mid-2001 to support the Chechen jihad. Rammah  
62 was arrested in April 2002 in an operation in which he was  
63 to provide detonators for a remote-controlled explosive

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64 device. Does the Personal Representative wish to make  
65 unclassified Opening Statement at this time?  
66 HQ Translator: Translates above.  
67 PR: Yes, Sir.  
68 GTMO Translator: Translates above.  
69 PM: I would like to remind all participants that any  
70 information shared at this time must be unclassified. If  
71 there is a concern about the classification of the  
72 information, I will indicate as such and will stop the  
73 proceedings until it is resolved. Has the detainee had the  
74 opportunity to review your statements?  
75 HQ Translator: Translates above.  
76 PR: Yes, Sir.  
77 PC: Yes, Sir.  
78 PM: Personal Representative, please proceed.  
79 GTMO Translator: Translates above.  
80 PR: Members of the Board, I thank you for the opportunity to  
81 review Zakariya's case. Of all the detainees I have worked  
82 with, Zakariya has impressed me the most with his ongoing,  
83 full-hearted participation in the PRB process. Despite  
84 receiving negative results in the past, he has continued to  
85 meet with me at every opportunity and has been proactive in  
86 working on documents for the board. While I never met  
87 Zakariya during the early years of his detainment in  
88 Guantanamo Bay, the Zakariya I have come to know has a true  
89 appreciation for American culture and society. He loves to  
90 talk about American movies and television shows and discuss  
91 with me how realistically they actually depict life in the  
92 United States. When I met with Zakariya earlier this year,  
93 I asked him about his plans for the future. He told me his  
94 dream would be to one day work in the film industry, making  
95 movies like those that have kept his spirits up during his

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96 detention. Zakariya acknowledged that this dream is  
97 unlikely to come to fruition, but told me instead he would  
98 love to simply own his own café or food truck one day: a  
99 small business that could provide financial security for  
100 himself and, God-willing, a family. On my next visit,  
101 Zakariya had taken the initiative to put together the  
102 business plan we submitted to you. I want to highlight that  
103 this is a three-part plan, which starts with him getting a  
104 job in a coffee shop, learning about the business while he  
105 works and saves for the future. While this may seem  
106 insignificant, I think it highlights the difference between  
107 the Zakariya of today and the Zakariya who was recruited as  
108 a teenager. Speaking about his future, Zakariya is excited  
109 for all the things he took for granted when he left his  
110 home in the 90s: he longs to be reunited with his mother  
111 and siblings, he is eager to work at a simple, reliable  
112 job, and he is ready to start a family of his own. In other  
113 words, over the past 20 years, Zakariya has changed and  
114 grown. I appreciate your time in this matter and your  
115 consideration for a transfer recommendation for Zakariya.

116 PM: Board Members may reserve questions until detainee and  
117 witness statements have been presented in their entirety.  
118 However, does anyone have any questions at this time?

119 HQ Translator: Translates above.

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

123 HQ Translator: Translates above.

124 CA: We will take a short recess to prepare for the remaining  
125 sessions. Time now 0923.

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