

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

[The detainee session for ISN 1094 opened at 0934, 21 March 2017.]

CA: The Periodic Review Board is reconvened at 0934 hours on 21 March 2017, with regard to Saifullah Paracha, ISN 1094.

PM: Mr. Paracha, 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. Do you understand my explanation?

DET: Yes, Ma'am.

PM: All right. Mr. Paracha, Board Members have had a chance to review your written statement for today's hearing. Do you wish to read your statement?

DET: If the Board wants me to read it, I'll read it.

PM: No. I think we can go to questions if you're ready to take questions.

DET: I'm ready to take the question, Ma'am.

PM: Okay.

(BMs CONFERRING)

PM: So... as you know and as we talked about in the unclassified session, this is your second hearing and you saw what the Board's finding were out of your last hearing. So I wanted you to... talk to us first about, explain your plan if you're transferred and what retiring mean... explain to us what retiring means to you.

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

DET: What I understood from the last hearing and the... of the... the determination of the Board, that the Board wanted me because of my age factor and my health I should be retired and not going to business. So, in order to avoid any... people meeting related to any terrorism activities. So, I'm agreeing to that, but I understood from the last hearing that they don't want me to go into business again. But the problem I have which I've already put in my statement, that there are some pending cases in the court and there are litigations and there are some assets and liabilities I like to settle if the Board allows me to do that.

PM: Well our concern it was a little more specific based on your last hearing with us. It was first that... we didn't see that you acknowledged any of your responsibility for your interactions and work with al-Qaeda. And second, because you didn't acknowledge that or understand it and throughout your discussions with us noted that you could not make distinctions in Pakistan between who was a good or... or a bad business contact. Our concern was not with your age, but more with your role and that you said yourself you couldn't distinguish between good business contacts and bad business contacts. So, that's more what our determinate... determination statement meant. So, when we talk about your retiring, that's what I wanna [sic]

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

understand from... from you. When you say finish up these cases, what does that mean for you? What do you think your life looks like after you're transferred?

DET: My life more over... more or less I like be a family man only. I like to be with my family. Even my health and age doesn't allow me to go into rigorous physical activities and I would avoid all the contacts with the interaction with the people.

PM: I'm sorry, explain the last part a little bit more please.

DET: I would avoid to meeting people if... if... if somebody try to contact me, I will try to in... in... advise the Pakistan government or the U.S. government. I have always been in contact with the U.S. officials in Pakistan. Me and my [Inaudible] and I have been on the contact or the telephone also. I'm... many time I talk to the commercial attaches in the consulate to get be able address this to do business with United States on various time from the common registered they have had.

PM: So you said you would need some time to tidy up court case and some existing business, but the statements from your family it looks like they're doing pretty well and they're willing to support you. So in your... your periodic... your Personal Representative's statement that you wanted to teach

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

your children so that they could finish the business contacts. It looks like they've graduated university, they're... they're employed... the... looks like they're fairly well. So... again, explain to us what it is you think you need to do for them and... and with these business contacts because they seem very willing just to... to allow you to retire and support you.

DET: I understand Ma'am, but the problem with my children have been that they have been raised by... by their mother and they're... my son especially, Mustafa, who lives in Pakistan who graduated from... from a university, he's not stable and... and... and working in... in the... in the offices. He had... had a job, two jobs, and he just designed that from there. And as far as my daughters is concerned, the elder daughter, she wants to be with the mother because my... my wife health is not in a good shape. She have had a breast cancer at her... I took her to United States for the treatment. I... she was treated in a set at university hospital in Brooklyn in New York and she had a mastectomy and she... her estrogen level is very low and her... her... her health always needs care. So... and she is under the anti-depression medicine also now. So my daughter is... is... is well-qualified. She had done her MBA, but she's not working either. But again, I mean at first their married then I don't have any control over them and Mustafa doesn't have any job at the moment. My

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

youngest daughter, she graduated from a university in psychology and she doesn't have a job. She's trying to work as a freelance journalist. I don't know what she's... I don't think she's earning anything at the moment.

PM: And so I... I'm a little confused now. The... the materials that... that we had to prepare for today, again from your family, state largely that they are employed or that they have means and that they are willing to support you. But what you're arguing today is that they are unable to support you. Am I... am I understanding...

(PM AND DET SPEAKING AT SAME TIME)

DET: I don't know that... I... I don't understand. I haven't seen the statement of my family; I don't have it with me, number one. Number two, whenever I talk to them on the telephone, they not working. As far as they... they... as far as they told me on the telephone. I talk to them every month on the telephone.

(PM AND DET SPEAKING AT SAME TIME)

PM: So, for your Personal Representative...

DET: But they... if they...

PM: For the Personal Representative that... in the materials that are for the review, Mr. Paracha did not get to see the letters from his family?

(PR CONFERRING WITH DET)

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

PR: These are... these are letters fo... from your family on the photographs.

DET: That the extended family in New York?

PR: Yes. They're straight from the family... the ones that... the pictures saying...

DET: That's not my family, that's the extended family living in New York.

PR: They're... yeah... they're from... straight from the PC saying that they're willing to support you in anyway.

DET: But they... they're not my wife and children Ma'am. They are living in New York... they're extended family.

(PR AND DET SPEAKING AT SAME TIME)

PR: Well you... and... and your wife and kids also s... will support from your family.

DET: I don't have it... never had...

PR: They're from Mr. Remes and...

DET: Okay. If they... if they can support me, I'll... I'll be more than willing to get their support and... and... and then I don't need any extra activities to do any Ma'am.

PM: I just wanna [sic] be clear that you have the information that we have. I've got a... an August 2016 letter from your wife, an August 2016 letter from your son Mustafa, and an August 2016 letter from [REDACTED] [phonetic spelling] your

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

daughter, and... for the... for the PR, I'm gonna [sic] pause here to let you make sure that he's seen these letters and that you've got that information. So I'm gonna [sic] take us... put us on mute for a moment.

(BM AUDIO ON MUTE 0943 HOURS)

(PR CONFERRING WITH DET)

(BMs CONFERRING)

(BM AUDIO ON 0945 HOURS)

DET: I haven't seen Ma'am those documents, but if they're willing to support me I'll be more than glad to... to... to get their support.

(BMs CONFERRING)

PM: And so Personal Representative, are those materials from 2016 included in the package that Mr. Paracha and you have?

PR: These are letters from his file review, but were also included in his case file.

PM: Okay, but... so do you have them today?

PR: I can get them.

PM: Yeah, I... I don't want there to be any disputes so we'll go on with the questioning and I just someone from PRS to make sure that those letters get down to you and that you have them in the room because they were important one for...

(PR INTERRUPTS PM)

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

PR: I can get them...

PM: Yeah...

PR: I can get them here.

PM: Please do... because...

PR: Yes, Ma'am.

PM: ... we... they were important for us for the file review and they're important for us in our decision today and I don't want us to know something that Mr. Paracha doesn't.

PR: Yes, Ma'am.

PM: So, how... let me just pause here and figure out how we're getting the letters for you.

(PM CONFERRING WITH CA)

PM: All right. So, we'll... we'll make sure that those are in the room with you and Mr. Paracha has a chance to re-look at those if you haven't seen them. But again, I'm gonna **[sic]** go back to... I just wanna **[sic]** make sure that I'm understanding Mr. Paracha. What exactly you intend to do if you are transferred? So, explain to me in... in some detail. When you talk about business, what does that mean? What would you be engaging in? With whom would you be interacting?

DET: Ma'am, the... the most the business are closed at the moment.

(BMs CONFERRING)

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

PM: Okay...

DET: There are some litigations on my business and on me, but I would like to when I go back, I like to settle those things amicably through the court or through the... the... the... some... people... they can... they can help me to settle those issues.

PM: Explain to us what those issues are. What is the litigation about?

DET: I... I've not been given details from my family what those litigations, but I can tell you what businesses there are. One... one of them is... my... I have a factory located near Islamabad at about 1000 kilometer away from Karachi. That... I would like to... the foreclosure system in Pakistan is slightly different than the foreclosure system in United States. I like to... to see that is properly advertised before I dispose of the assets in... in... from my factory, and there are liabilities from the... from the banks which I would like to settle against those answers. I have building... real estate building in Karachi [Inaudible] 32 apartment [sic]. That is... my family has settled the issue, but there are some financial obligation which are pending. When I go, I will try to settle those issues with... with the... the party they have taken over. They're not very complicated issues and the some focuses there are which I like to settle would be with the parties amicably.

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

PM: Why...

DET: Absent... [Inaudible] is in... near Islamabad which I like to... to foreclose, but I want to advertise properly nationwide so the assets can get some... some reasonable pricing on it.

PM: So you have a factory in Islamabad that you would want to dispose of and a building in Karachi where you have a couple pending lawsuits. Do I understand you correctly?

DET: There was the... there... there is a pending lawsuits, but I like to... I... I... I try to... I... I requested my... my wife to... to... not to go into litigation in any businesses, but some people are... are persisting in the court of law which I like to settle when... with them when I go back.

PM: Okay. So there's also mention in one of the statements about your house and that your wife was involved in some litigation involving your house. Where is that?

DET: Ma'am that house... my... my house is in Karachi and be... she requested to... that she wants to sh... to move from Karachi to Lahore, another city in... in Pakistan. And the problem she had was to dispose of the house. She ask me to send her the Power of Attorney from here which I did. It took almost two years to Pakistan government to accept the Power of Attorney because one of the law is that the Power of Attorney should be signed in

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

front of the Pakistan government officials, but they waiver that; it took almost two years, she has it now. She made the advertisement in the newspaper and the people came and somebody ask them that who is the owner and she said, "My husband". They ask, "Where is he?" She said, "He's in Guantanamo". So he gave... he... I don't know this... the real story. My family says that he left a check not openly, but secretly as a token money almost 60 percent of the actual price. So my family doesn't want to sell it even to the court of law and he's taking a stand that I... my wife agreed to sell the house at the price of \$600,000; the property is worth about \$1,000,000. So she can't sell the house at the moment.

PM: Okay. So, is she still living in your house in Karachi?

DET: Yes, Ma'am.

PM: And... is that... is that a law suit again between the seller and your family or between the buyer and your family? Or is that just the sale is stopped?

DET: I think they... there's... there's a... a... he's trying to play game with my family that I... we agreed to sell him at \$600,000 and my family's denying that. And it's a... it's a fairly... simple case, but the... the man is prolonging unnecessarily to take advantage of my wife.

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

(BMs CONFERRING)

BM: One quick question. Why do you believe that you are the person who needs to solve these problems? Do you not have like attorneys working with your family or other people who've been looking over these business interests for the last 10-15 years that you don't rely on for these things? Why is it only you who would need to get back involved with this business?

DET: The... the... these things are... have been under my name, under my signature. For example, the house, I own the house and I...

(BM AND DET SPEAKING AT SAME TIME)

BM: Did you say the Power of Attorney... I'm sorry, you said Power of Attorney did transfer to your wife though, correct?

DET: I did.

BM: Okay.

DET: But she is facing difficulties to dispose it off. So when I go back, I will try to settle that issue with the... with the whoever wanted to buy or... or ask some arbitrator to... to... to mediate and... and settle the issue. My wife doesn't know anything about business and dealing with people in businesses. She has always been a house... house wife.

BM: But again... I guess my question is, why are you the

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

only one who can advise her? Since as you've...

(BM AND DET SPEAKING AT SAME TIME)

DET: Because... I... I have...

BM: ... discussed before, there's concerns about you getting involved in business. Why do you feel that you are the only person who can do it?

DET: Because the... everything is under my name and I have know how to settle these issues for my... from my property.

BM: So, is there no one else who can advise your wife that you trust? Nobody?

DET: They trying... they... they haven't been able to do that even we have attorneys, but they have not been able to help. I give you another example, one of the office I had it was rented out to somebody, he's not paying rent and my wife could not visit him all the time, she send somebody and in return he refuse to pay the rent and he said... she sent against her and was threatening for life and he went to the court he didn't pay rent for five year. And after five year, he settled the issue with my wife. My wife end up paying him money to retain the property and he didn't pay rent for five year. It's a very difficult situation she is facing.

BM: Mr. Paracha, I guess I'm trying to understand that... the difference between this idea of disposing of assets or

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

settling court cases on the one hand and your statement about getting a job in management or consulting. Could you help me understand why you... why you need the job in management or consulting instead of just sort of winding things down and selling assets and then living off the assets?

DET: S... sir, as long as my... my... my health and my wife health is... is not the good shape. We need a constant healthcare and if in... in case of my survival, if I need to have a job or to earn something. If I have some assets or funds left, I would not... I would... I will retire. But if I need to work for my survival, I ask the Board to allow me. I'm not... I'm not suggesting that I will work in any case. If I'm allowed, I will work and if... if needed, I can report to the authorities and whatever work I'm doing in Pakistan.

BM: So, your Personal Representative's statement said that you would... you needed to teach your children to be the family bread winners. Could you help me understand, I guess how you would teach them; why they need to be taught at this point since they've all graduated from university? What's your... what's your thinking about teaching them how to be the bread winners?

DET: Not really teaching... teaching themselves just to... to make them realize that they should take their lives seriously and... have a job seriously. They've not been taking job

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

seriously. I mean the system in USA and system in Pakistan is really different. The most of the time, the kids are dependant on their parents in Pakistan. So, the... my... my wife hasn't been able to have a control over my son and daughters properly and, excuse me, they don't listen to her properly.

(BM AND DET SPEAKING AT SAME TIME)

BM: So, if you...

DET: It's just the... as a parent, I would like them to be discipline more little bit on their job.

BM: So if you did need to work, what kind of work would you see yourself doing?

DET: Any consulting management in... in... in a company or in any government sector if allowed.

(BMs CONFERRING)

DET: And if not allowed, I would not work. I agree to that... conditions.

BM: So, Mr. Paracha... and I'm sorry, I... I might repeat some of the questions that were asked before because I'm still kind of a little bit con... confused by some of this. So, can you explain to me a little bit how your family has kind of survived, like, what have they done for money while you've been in Guantanamo? I mean, it's been several years and I think your son... I think Mustafa says he went to Grammar, a very expensive

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

school. Your daughter went to Lums [phonetic spelling] which is also a very expensive school. How did they pay for all of that while you were in Guantanamo?

DET: My son have had a job and he was sup... he... he didn't even contribute to the family. He was... he was keeping all the money with... for himself and he was living with the family.

(BM AND DET SPEAKING AT SAME TIME)

BM: And which the... this one... is this Mustafa?

DET: And my daughter... Mustafa, yes Ma'am.

BM: Like, so how... how did... but Mustafa went to school before that right? So how was Mustafa's school paid for? He... he says he went the... the, you know, very good schools. He said he went... and your daughter also describes going to good schools. How is that paid for?

DET: Yes, Ma'am. Well I... I don't know really the detail, but my feeling is that the family from my... my fam... extended family from New York, they're supported them.

BM: Okay, s...

DET: My sister-in-law is a doctor in Connecticut. She had been a great help emotionally and financially to my family.

BM: And... and you may explained this in your last review, but how... what... what is the... what is the status of your businesses when you first left and... and are they all gone now?

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

Are... you're talking about kind of liens on a factory in Islamabad; you were talking about this residential apartment building, but, has that not... ha... has your wife not been able to manage any of the business while you were gone? Has it all been lost?

DET: Well the s... some people came to help her and they... they... they took money and... and... and cheated her and they disappeared.

BM: So, who are these "some people"?

DET: And... I don't know the detail of those people. They came from Islamabad some people. They pretended to be my friends, but she... they came with the family, wife and the children, and they wanted to be very close to my family. And then the business was closed. All business are closed. One of the business was with my American partner. My American partner stopped doing business in Pakistan after my cap... I was captured. And the factory is closed and near Islamabad, I don't know what the condition of the factory is, but almost 13, 14 years now. Similarly, the building which was... it stop construction and I was worried about that building; rain and the wind is... is... is naturally raining and sea on the beach. So, I told my wife to settle whatever condition... under condition she can get and let other people finish the project. If she get the money, fine, if

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

she doesn't get any money, it's okay. Because if the building collapse, nothing will be... will be... will be achieved; nothing more lawsuits against that building.

BM: And... and your expectation is though it's been 13 years that the factory may have been shuttered or however many years and that the... that...

DET: Yes, Ma'am.

BM: ... that you... that you think there's still some work to be done in terms of a for... foreclosure with the Pakistani government?

DET: Pakistani government is nothing do with that, but foreclosure with banks.

(BM AND DET SPEAKING AT SAME TIME)

BM: Oh with the banks, I'm sorry. So you think there's still something to be settled with the banks on... at this point for you.

DET: The... the... their... their bank loan on it and if I can settle with them under the circumstances; sell the assets and pay to the bank. I can't pay them full amount at the moment because of the interest accrued on it...

BM: Okay...

DET: ... but I will settle some... somewhere against the assets. The bankruptcy laws in Pakistan are very different than

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

the bankruptcy in United States. Bankruptcy law in Pakistan reflects your personal property also because I have the businesses. I wish I could file a bankruptcy when I go back and settle all the issues, but I will not be able to do that.

BM: Okay, sorry so... but you think the as... there's still assets in that factory that the bank has not already seized from you that you have to dispose of?

DET: As I understand, yes Ma'am.

BM: Okay.

DET: Because what happened was, that since I was captured and the... my wife went to the court... in high court in Pakistan, ask Pakistan government to get my release from U.S. government. And Pakistan's government has acknowledge that I'm under the custody of United States and they trying their very best to get me released. On the basis of that, my wife hired an attorney and he's taken the stay until I go back to settle these issues.

BM: So there... the stay is dependent upon your return to Pakistan? Is that... that... that is... so you... so let's say you don't... you're not cleared for transfer... you're not transferred for years, do you expect that the... this will all be stayed indefinitely? Is that the idea? Or is your wife going to try to resolve these issues... continue to try to resolve these issues?

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

DET: I... over a period of time, I try to tell her to settle whatever she can settle issues. For example, building, house, and the office I have had. She signed with some of those issues and the factory is far away from Karachi. I don't think she can... she can do that in that area. That's a tribal area where the factory is. I don't advise her to even considering to visit and to dispose of anything from there. And if... if the banks can take over, I have no problem they can take over.

PM: I'm sorry, where exactly is the factory? You said 200 kilometers out of Islamabad, right?

DET: It's about 1000 kilometer from Karachi and it's between Kara... Is... Islamabad and... and Pashawar. There's a area called Gadoon. That's a poppy growing area where U.S. government and the European Union wanted to help that area to avoid poppy growing they give incentive to put up the factories. That's where I put up the factory.

BM: What's the closest city to Gadoon?

DET: Islamabad.

BM: Islamabad is the closest?

DET: About 100 kilometer.

PM: And sorry, when did you open that factory in Gadoon?

DET: As I remember, in 1993.

PM: And what was it doing?

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

DET: They were... we were making polypropylene bags for rice, beet, and fertilizer, and cement bag for cement factories.

(BMs CONFERRING)

BM: So, my understanding of the Pakistani legal system, particularly when it comes to property cases, that it is very, very slow. So, is it your expectation that you would be able to resolve these issues in a timely manner when you got back? Or do you expect to be in court and in... and dealing with these issues for years on end.

DET: No, Ma'am. I will try to settle... I... the court be... not be able to resolve the issues. I would like to settle out of the court amicably with the help of the court.

BM: And... this to me sounds a little bit like you're... you're saying that you... your return is needed to resolve these issues. Do you intend to, if you're able to, open any of these businesses again?

DET: No, Ma'am. I will not. Those businesses... I cannot conduct those business anymore because the factory, the equipment... I have a generator from... from the Caterpillar. That is exhausted at the moment, all. Is... I don't know what can work in that factory anymore. The land is has a value, the building has... the building has about 100,000 square feet covered area. That has some value, but I don't know the equipment what value I

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

would get probably. I... probably have to sell at the junk.

BM: Okay. And then... the other thing you said is your wi... so your wife wants to move to sell this house in Karachi and move to Lahore, right? So, do you intend... is that your plan as well if you return; that you would then... they... you will sell this house in Karachi and move to Lahore?

DET: That... I would... I don't know. My feeling is that she feels that if she moves to Lahore, she has a sister there and she can... she can get the daughter married and the son married easily in there because of... the marriage system in our... Pakistan is basically the family arranges... family arrange marriages. So when I go back to Karachi, I think I can handle the issue easily than going... shifting to Lahore. Shifting to Lahore will be very painful for the family and to establish there, it will be very difficult. We have a large family living in Karachi and her family lives in Lahore. So she wanted to move to her sister... close to her sister, but my sister... my other relatives are all in Karachi.

BM: Can... can you describe, sorry, what the family network in Karachi is and what it... so, you have... where are all of your siblings? I know some are in the United States and then where are all of your wife's siblings? What... where is your family? How many family members do you have in each of these cities?

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

What kind of support network do you have?

DET: I have a... I have a large family living in Pakistan and live in New York. My sister recently she shifted from Westchester she living in Karachi near my house; just a walking distance from my house. And I have nephews in... and nieces living in Karachi. They are only 15, 20 minute drive from my home.

BM: And is your sister the only sibling you have in Karachi or is everybody else in the states now?

DET: She's the only sibling I have in Karachi and I have two brothers living... one living in New York and one is living in Houston.

(BM AND DET SPEAKING AT SAME TIME)

BM: And then you wife has...

DET: They are retired al... they are retired also.

BM: And... and your wife has one sibling in Lahore... on sister in Lahore and that... and one sister in Connecticut and that's it? Are there other sisters and brothers?

DET: And one brother living in Islamabad.

BM: One brother in Islamabad, all right. Thank you.

(BMs CONFERRING)

PM: I wanted to... thank you for explaining that... support system, but I... I wanna [sic] go back to another thing that... that

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

certainly troubled me and that you saw in the Board's finding and that's your relationship to Osama bin Laden and Khaled Sheik Muhammad. When we've talked with you before, you said you didn't really know who they were; you didn't investigate; you were... just holding money for them. Have to tell you, none of that seemed very truthful to me; it seemed very deceptive. And so to understand if you still present a threat to the United States, I wanna [sic] understand what your relationship was to al Qaeda, particularly to the senior leaders. So, can you explain to us again your relationship to Osama bin Laden first? And second, to Khaled Sheik Muhammad?

DET: I never have any intentions to visit and meet Osama bin Laden es... in... in... in Afghanistan. Somebody... somebody invited me and I accepted invitation. And the way he talked, I felt he didn't say anything against anybody and I proposed to him to make a T.V. program based on what he s... he talked about the... the good human beings of the... of... the... of... a... according to Quranic verses. The... the common personalities from Quran which are common in Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. So I proposed that I would like to make programs in English. He never spoke in English, but I spoke in English. He replied to somebody in Arabic and he translated to me in Urdu.

(PM INTERRUPTS DET)

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

DET: So... I... that was the only...

PM: I'm sorry... when you're talking about "He", are you talking about Osama bin Laden?

(DET INTERRUPTS PM)

DET: Excuse me?

PM: What's... who's the "He"?

DET: Yes, Ma'am.

PM: Okay. So you were proposing to Osama bin Laden to make videos for him that would be in English?

DET: Yes, Ma'am. And his response was that he will think about it and somebody will contact me. And s... somebody was Khaled Sheik, but he never revealed this real identity and he fake... always fake his personality and his identity.

BM: Sorry, so... what... what year was this? What... when... I'm sorry, you may said this, but when exactly did you have this conversation with Osama bin Laden?

DET: As I remember, 1999 and 2000 and... yeah, 1999 and 2000.

BM: And... and can you just explain why you wanted to do these videos in English with him?

DET: I had... I was... I was a chairman of Universal Broadcasting. I had a studio in Karachi and I before prior to that, I had a third world broadcasting in New York. I used to

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

produce program and telecast... and from WNJU channel in New York; I had experience of doing it. Similarly, I was doing in Pakistan... I was interviewing and making program and I was buying time on television channels and selling to the various T.V. channels worldwide in Urdu and English, so that was one of the program.

BM: I guess... and I understand maybe the mechanism, I just don't understand why you thought I'm gonna [sic] go to Afghanistan; I'm gonna [sic] talk to this man and this is the guy who needs to do a video in English... that I need to do business with. That... that... that's the part I'm having trouble understanding.

DET: I was... I... I was... I was a chairman of a... of a consular event organization in Pakistan, Karachi. We were helping the poor and needy in Ka... in Pakistan in health, education, and food support. So what... some trustees suggested me to extend that service to Afghanistan. I refused to go there, but I was duped to go with... with their plan and I went and I saw others... others scared of the Taliban government. And I... when I went there, I didn't see any threats of my life. When I came back, I didn't meet Osama bin Laden or anybody. I just met the official of Taliban government and when I second trip I went, that's where somebody invited me to go and visit. On the... on the basis of

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

the extending the help to Afghani people nothing do with Osama bin Laden.

BM: So, you thought that if bin Laden... sorry, if you... if al Qaeda did English language videos for you to distribute in Pakistan, that that would be a favor to the Taliban or a favor... or... or useful for the Afghan people?

DET: No, Ma'am. That... that... the... the video was supposed to be made in English and I always wanted to telecast worldwide on various TV channels worldwide as a syndicated program.

(BMs CONFERRING)m sorry what does that have to do with helping the poor in Afghanistan or Pakistan?

DET: We could... that is... that... that is through the well Universal Broadcasting as a... as a business, nothing do with the charity.

(BMs CONFERRING)

DET: It was a commercially viable thing to do. It... that's why I considered to do it.

PM: Sorry, you're saying... this is where we need you to be more precise... in your answers and we'll be more precise in our questions if that's helpful.

BM: So I mean... maybe I can try.

(BMs CONFERRING)

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

BM: So, you agreed to make videos in English for Osama bin Laden. Is that what you're telling us, correct?

DET: Based on Quran and the... the life of Prophet Muhammad.

BM: And this is in 1999 and 2000?

DET: Yes, Sir.

BM: Okay. So by 1999 and 2000, bin Laden had already carried out the attacks on the U.S. embassies in Africa, right?

DET: Yes, Sir.

BM: He had already had to leave Sudan, correct?

DET: Yes, Sir... not before that I believe.

BM: He was... he... he was being hunted by the United States as a terrorist, right?

DET: Yes, Sir.

BM: And are... do you want us to believe that it did not trouble you to wanna [sic] do something on behalf of this individual?

DET: It troubled me to the extent that I... I brought this issue to the Pakistan government one of the Secretary of Home Affair. The only thing I think I made a mistake was that I didn't take U.S. government into confidence of doing it. If I had given... I was in contact with the U.S. officials in Pakistan. If I asked the U.S. government on this issue, it would have been okay.

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

BM: So just...

DET: That is a mistake I fear today.

BM: Well just to be clear since this is now our second time around with you on... on these topics, you never told us at your last hearing or any of your other material... in any of your other materials that you went to the Pakistani government about your meetings with bin Laden.

DET: I said I... I... I mention in my other statements of the first time I gave.

BM: No. You did not tell us...

DET: I'm...

BM: If... if you... then show us where in your statement cause I haven't seen it and I've read the transcript of your last hearing and you didn't say it at your last hearing.

(PR CONFERRING WITH DET)

PR: Why... why would you want to make a video for Osama bin Laden is what they're asking.

DET: Excuse me?

PR: Why would you want to make a video for Osama bin Laden is what they're asking if you knew all this stuff about him.

DET: No. I wanted to make a video based on Quran about prophet's ways... prophets that he talks about.

(PM INTERRUPTS PR AND DET)

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

PR: But why UBL...

PM: So I... let me just say there are... there are some wonderful scholars on the Quran. There are... are great books, there are great documentaries by people in... who speak English as a native language or from Pakistanis who... who wanna talk about their faith. So, your PR is correct. You knew who Osama bin Laden was. You knew that al Qaeda was guilty of these activities. Why would you pick Usama bin Laden [sic] to be the person you wanna feature to talk about the Quran when you have a whole world of other people that you could pick? Why did you wanna work with him?

DET: I could... I was already doing with them, Ma... Ma'am, also. I produce almost 500 programs on various topics...

(PM INTERRUPTS DET)

PM: You're not answering my question.

DET: ... he was one of them.

PM: You're not answering my question. Why Usama bin Laden [sic]? Why him?

BM: Did you think he brought...

DET: I say that he...

BM: Go ahead.

DET: Excuse me?

BM: Go... go ahead.

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

DET: I thought... I thought his... if he talks about Quran and the life of the Prophet, people will be interested to hear and it may bring... it may bring the communities together; Christianity, Muslims, and Judaism.

PM: Wait... wait a minute. You thought the person who blew up embassies in... in Africa was the person to bring together a Muslim, Christian understanding?

DET: That's what my understanding was, Ma'am.

PM: Okay. Do you see how from my perspective that sounds... threatening? Do you see how that might seem threatening to me as an American?

DET: It was subject to the... the... the program. If the program I... we have a... we have a team of people in our office. If there is any threatening issue as far as that is concerned, we would not telegraph. It was not that we going to telecast the program. We were going to sell to the channels and they would telegraph the program.

PM: So I'm gonna go back to our original...

DET: We don't have our...

PM: ... our original statement to you because we're coming back to that point for me. One of the findings that this Board came to several months ago was that you did not understand the impact or you were not willing to understand the impact of your

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

actions with al Qaeda. Your answer to me again shows me you're not understanding that. You're telling me you weren't gonna do this; you would cut things out. I... I want to know from you, do you see how your actions helped al Qaeda? Do you understand that at all?

DET: I understand that Ma'am now. I... I... as I feel, probably in my subconscious I was greedy to do that. That's the only answer I can give you.

PM: Okay.

DET: And I'm sorry for that.

PM: I... I have to say I don't feel a lot of sorry from you. I feel a lot of deceptiveness and obfuscating in that you're not answering the questions and a lot of excusing past behavior. So, you're not... if that's what you wanna convey to me as we go through this hearing, I wanna let you know you are not conveying that feeling.

BM: And... and I'll do even a step further than my colleague here. I... I find it astounding that you continue to say that you did not understand what the goals were of al Qaeda and the people for whom you were working. It... it... it... it is at least, I can only speak for myself, but I find your insistence on maintaining that position insulting.

DET: I'm sorry for that. I... I... I think I... I made a

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

mistake. That's the only thing I can say.

BM: You know...

DET: But I didn't produce any program. I didn't telegraph any program...

(BM INTERRUPTS DET)

BM: So... so let... let's talk about what you did do. You did handle money on behalf of al Qaeda, correct?

DET: They invested money in my businesses... yes I accept that.

BM: And you realize that if you're al Qaeda, you can't just walk into banks and deposit your money and let the banks freely disburse your funds, correct?

DET: Excuse me, Sir.

BM: It's not easy for al Qaeda to use the banking system.

(BM AND DET SPEAKING AT SAME TIME)

DET: I don't know. I... I don't...

BM: ... as a business man, that... that... that shouldn't be a surprise to you, right?

DET: No. What I'm saying is there in... in Pakistan, it's very common people make investment in various businesses with people they have a confidence in the businesses.

BM: Yes. And those are sometimes legitimate investments, but is it legitimate to take an investment from a terrorist

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

government. That is the mistake I committed. I agree with that.

BM: So... sorry, so your mistake was not taking the money in the first place or wanting to get into business with them in the first place. Your mistake was not notifying enough people. Is that... is that what your contention is?

DET: No. My conviction is that I should have advised that I met Osama bin Laden and I offered my broadcasting company to be program.

(BM AND DET SPEAKING AT SAME TIME)

DET: All that possible detail...

BM: And what... what do you think would've hap... and what do you think would've happened if you had done that.

DET: ... all the possible detail which I gave it Pakistan government, I should have given it to the U.S. government also.

BM: Okay. So, why didn't you give it to the U.S. government I guess and... So you... you thought you were doing something potentially wrong, is that right?

(NO RESPONSE FROM DET)

BM: I guess I'm just having...

DET: I didn't think so.

BM: I... I'm... I'm having trouble understanding still. I still don't understand who you thought you were gonna sell

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

programs to that were created by Osama bin Laden. Who you thought the audience for that was going to be? Where you were gonna make the money for that?

DET: I had already produced about 500 programs...

(BM INTERRUPTS DET)

BM: No, I understand... I understand, sorry I... I don't wanna... we don't wanna rehash that. I understand that you had a big business; you were doing all kinds, you know... you... and you... you went to all kinds of sources. At some point though, you made a decision that bin Laden, al Qaeda was a worthy message to distribute, right? And you said... you're saying that because it was gonna be about the prophet; it was gonna be Quran, but what... what did you think they were gonna say in those messages and who do you... did you think was the audience for an al Qaeda message?

DET: Ma'am, the system what I... we already produced the program was that first we prepare a script and we go through the script and then the script is given to the scholar to go through the script and when they read the script then we make the program...

(BM INTERRUPTS DET)

BM: I think you're not answering my question.

DET: ... and even after make...

BM: Why... why... why bin Laden and for who? Who would be...

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

who would appreciate that message? Who did you think was gonna... it was gonna go to?

DET: The world community.

BM: And... and you... because you thought the world wanted to hear from bin Laden a message of peace?

DET: The what I... what I thought was that the world needs a message to bring the communities together and I would write a script and he will be the one who will talk about it.

BM: In English?

DET: In English. But he never... we di... never did anything, Ma'am.

BM: I... I... I... I'm not trying to get at what happened in the end. I'm trying to understand your intention for choosing somebody like Osama bin Laden for delivering a message or for him helping you make money.

(BMs CONFERRING)

DET: I feel that I was a... I... I... I was misjudging or miscalculating that, Ma'am.

BM: What were you miscalculating? What was your miscalculation?

DET: That it was not a good thing to do.

BM: Why wasn't it a good thing to do?

DET: The way the... the... that they have been doing the

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

things. See the... the issue is that since we never finalized anything so I don't know what various that could message be.

BM: Did you know who Osama bin Laden was?

DET: Yes, Ma'am.

BM: Did you know what he was accused of doing or what he was known to have done?

DET: Yes, Ma'am.

BM: I... I just...

(BMs CONFERRING)

BM: What do you feel were the mistakes you made? Do you think the mistakes were not getting away with this or you think the mistakes were actually doing business with al Qaeda?

(NO RESPONSE FROM DET)

BM: Do you feel you made any mistakes or do you feel that you simply are the victim of bad luck?

DET: I feel that the mistake I made was that not taking U.S. government into confidence.

(BM AND DET SPEAKING AT SAME TIME)

BM: Okay. So, do you think that...

DET: They would have guided me...

BM: Do you think that actually doing business with al Qaeda was a mistake though regardless of whether it led to you being imprisoned. Not talking about the effect it had on your

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

bank account or on your business. Do you think doing business with al Qaeda was a mistake?

DET: I probably have to... to misjudge Khaled Sheik because the way he was moving around in Pakistan and he was contacting, I never realize that he is al Qaeda or he... the way he... he posted himself that he's... he's a agriculturalist Pakistani and... and trying to help bin Laden in the media.

BM: Okay. So, you...

DET: That was how por... he portrayed himself.

BM: Okay. But in terms of what you did though, did you make a mistake aside from being tricked. Do you feel that you did something that was wrong?

(BM AND DET SPEAKING AT SAME TIME)

DET: I think... I... yes I...

BM: Aside from being the sti... the [Inaudible].

DET: I... I... I feel... I feel that I've done wrong by getting involved in these things altogether.

BM: Okay. And why is it what you did wrong? What was wrong about it?

DET: I should have not dealt with them at all because of their background.

BM: Okay. So, even if you had cleared it with the American government and you say you now you clear this with the

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

Pakistan government, you think now that it... it... you should... should not have done it at all?

DET: Yes, Sir.

BM: Okay.

(BM CONFERRING)

BM: Can we go back to this clearing it with the Pakistani government? So, what exactly did you tell the Pakistani government and who did you tell?

DET: I... I didn't hear you well, Ma'am.

BM: Sorry. What did you tell the Pakistani government and who did you tell in the Pakistani government about your contacts with... Khaled Sheik...

DET: The Secretary Home Affair... The Secretary Home Affair...

BM: Where?

DET: ... in Kar... in Karachi and I told him that I met Osama bin Laden to make a TV program. He... he... he knew my business. He has been to my office. He... he's the one I told him.

BM: Sorry. You... when you say the Home Secretary do you mean the Home Secretary of the federal government or do you mean Sindh government?

DET: Sindh government.

BM: And who was that at the time?

DET: As I remember his name he was a... a Brigadier Mukhtar.

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

BM: And what was his response?

DET: He didn't object or he didn't say anything about it.

BM: And how did you inform him? Like, did you go to his office and say I have this thing I need to do; I'm asking you if it's okay. Do you know what... do you know about bin Laden? How... how... what was the... the tenor or the nature of the conversation?

DET: Well I... I used to visit his office quite frequently. So one of the visits, we used to have lunch together and... and discuss various issues. So one of... one... in one of the meeting I... I told him that I went to Afghanistan on a... on a charity issue and I end up meeting Osama bin Laden and I proposed to him to make a program for my broadcasting company and he said he will think about it. That is the only conversation I told him. And he did not show any concern.

BM: So can I ask... why was it you who proposed that to Osama bin Laden? What... what led you to make that offer to him?

DET: I happen to be in the audience about 15 to 20 people and when he talked... I felt that his talks are quite... peaceful. So that's why I suggested to him.

BM: And what was it about that message that to you seemed consistent with the fact that he had bombed American embassies?

DET: I didn't get the question, Sir.

BM: Yeah. What was it about that peaceful message to you

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

that you heard from Osama bin Laden that was in any way consistent with the fact that he had bombed American embassies?

DET: As a media man, I... I wanted to do some... some recording of my media company. I... I didn't pay attention at that time. I'm sorry for that.

BM: So... sorry... So, you were in this audience of 15 and 20 people. Bin Laden spoke in Arabic, is that right?

DET: He did, yes.

BM: Do you... but you don't speak Arabic.

DET: I don't.

BM: So, you heard him speak in s... in another language that you don't speak or understand fully and you felt that he delivered a message of peace that needed to be broadcast or distributed. Is that... am I understanding that correctly?

DET: Ma... Ma'am, but he had somebody sitting next him...

BM: Okay.

DET: We were all Pakista... and he was talking in Arabic and one Pakistani was translating in Urdu.

BM: Okay. Can...

DET: And I was... I was talking English; I asked some questions and he replied in English.

BM: Can you describe a little bit of what his message of peace was; what exactly he said?

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

DET: Basically he talked about from the verses of Quran and the saying of the prophet on the... the humanities and since we were on a... on a charity mission. So he talks to help human beings and... the prophet's example he gave some. I don't exactly remember what he talked in detail, but as I remember the message that was only to help the humanity.

BM: So the message wasn't necessarily...

DET: Nothing against any nation, nothing against any... any country.

BM: So, sorry... so was the message a message of peace or about peace or was it a message about charity that just also happen not to have anything negative about any countries?

DET: My... my message or his talking?

BM: No his... his talking. The... the... the... the message that inspired you to wanna go into business with him.

DET: He had only quoted the Quranic verses and the... the saying of prophet which was nothing against anybody.

BM: Sorry. I... I... guess, and maybe this is a language issue. I'm not under... I just wanna be clear. You're not... are you saying that he delivered a message peace that surprised you or something like that? Or that you're on a charity trip; he talked about good things about charity and that is what inspired you to wanna do business with him?

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

DET: The thing which ex... inspired me was that he talked only good, nothing against anybody.

BM: And that was surprising to you or was that... I mean everywhere you go when on a charity trip, people will say thing... good things about doing charity, right? I mean what was it... what was inspirational or surprising?

DET: Yes, Ma'am. People do talk about, but what I heard from him... I had a very different impression about him; that he's a rich man from Saudi Arabia and he is living in a very isolated society in a poor condition. So that curiosity took me to him as a matter of fact. And then when I saw as a media man, I wanted to make some program to see what he says about the common personalities of... of Quran and Bible.

BM: Why did you think Osama bin Laden was living in those conditions in Afghanistan? Why did he choose to do that?

DET: That was the curiosity which made me to meet, to tell you the truth.

BM: It wasn't because he was on the run?

DET: He was on the run, of course, he was on the run. But he... he... I... I saw President Bill Clinton. He said, we know where he is because not that s... I mean, he was meeting very common people in Afghanistan.

(BM CONFERRING)

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

PM: I wanted to ask to about you... your other son. He was also involved in al Qaeda and is imprisoned in the United States. How can you explain to us his roll and his involvement in al Qaeda?

DET: I have provided the transcript of the court which... is witness of Majid Khan and Omar Baloch. They under the... under the... they were kept... in a... in a unknown places in various places in worldwide and they said that we were hiding our identity, he didn't know about us. And I think he made a false confession in the trial to the court and then he was sentenced because of that.

BM: All right. So you... you know that a court both a... a Trial Judge and Court of Appeals have found that his confession was voluntarily given and was not a false confession.

DET: No, it was... I think it was circumstantial more than the one in internally. He... [Inaudible]

(BM INTERRUPTS DET)

BM: If you read... you said you have the transcript of the trial, so why don't you read it. I think it's pretty clear that he confessed on more than one occasion that he was trying to smuggle Ha... Majid Khan back into the country. He and Aafia Siddiqui were conspiring together and they were doing it to aid al Qaeda.

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

DET: But... Majid Khan was... was faking his identity also. He said I was living in America and he wanted to go back to America.

BM: Right. And he had a problem because he was in Pakistan and that's where your son came in 'cause your son posed as Majid Khan in trying to get a... a... a substitute visa so that his... so that Majid Khan could come back into the country.

(NO RESPONSE FROM DET)

BM: Do you regret getting your son involved with Majid Khan?

DET: I'm... I... I regret everything, Sir, which all happened to me and my family.

BM: Well was that just another piece of bad luck that he happened to get involved with, of all people, Majid Khan?

DET: I think... it's... it's my mistake and a bad luck.

PM: You... said that when you or if you are to go back to Pakistan, you have a... a lot of teaching and advice to give to your family and to your... your two children who are there. What about in Guantanamo today? Do detainees seek you out for advice?

DET: I have been teaching them English and I have re... taught them how to do business. And I have tried to... to brainwash them about negative thinking about USA and I think it

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

work very well so far. And most of them have continued what I taught them.

PM: How do you communicate to them because I think a lot of the detainees who are there now are... are Arabic speakers. How do you communicate?

DET: I talked to them very slowly in English and I maintain a di... dictionary alongside so if they don't understand, I tell them to look into the dictionary and I speak very, very basic English with them. With the body language, they understand me.

PM: Okay. What kind of... you said you've been trying to change minds about the United States and you think you've been successful because some detainees have tran... that you've worked with have been transferred or left Guantanamo. What kind of advice did you give them that you think was successful for them?

DET: Well I... the... the only thing they know about United States is of Guantanamo and I said this is not United States. United States is a country have... have a lot of good people there and it's a... I told them very frankly that if I have a choice to live other than Pakistan, I live... I live in United States. That was one of the example I gave them. And I told them that I have very large family living there very peacefully and they have... they have decent life in America and they maintain their

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

religion there's no problem and there's no problem to keep your religions values in... in United States. They were... they were not aware of all these factors.

PM: What about... what advice did you give them to prepare for their Periodic Review Board hearings?

DET: I try to tell them that they should answer all the question they're asked too as much as their knowledge is concern. They should give, frankly, the honest answer.

PM: Do you think you followed your own advice today?

DET: I have no idea.

(LAUGHTER)

DET: But, I am...

(PR CONFERRING WITH DET)

DET: ... but for myself? Yes, Ma'am. I try all my life to be very honest in every aspect of my life.

PM: I think I have some trouble understanding how you can talk and reflect on your time in the United States so positively and feel so comfortable in the U.S. culture, but that you were willing to work with al Qaeda and not just one time, but... but over a span of years. Just before we wrap up, can you explain to me how you in your mind put those two things together? How you can like the United States and still want to help al Qaeda?

DET: I think I was naïve to helping al Qaeda. That the

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

only thing I can think of. If I had known... if I had known their... their identity and advise U.S. government probably 9/11 might have not happened. I even sent a letter to the... the con... all the legislatures in United States in 2000 and... in 1990... in 2001 before... 11... and I... that letter also I've submitted before and I suggested the difficulties in Afghanistan and I... I know the problem and I suggested some remedies. That's the... that was... what I did in 2000 and 2001 probably. That is already on the record.

(PR CONFERRING WITH DET)

PR: It has a letter to the President in his first Board.

BM: Okay. So... I guess...

DET: I lived a... I... a very decent life in United States and... I was law abiding citizen there... there as... as anybody else.

BM: Can you tell me what you think your biggest flaws are?

DET: I trust people easily, but... for example, I had three American partners of doing business in Pakistan and many people suggested to me in Pakistan not to have them as a partner. I said, but what is wrong with that? They said, they may be working for agencies. I said, I will do everything what legally required. So, I made a com... company and work with them and we did enormous business with United States over hundred million dollars together. Others benefitted, U.S. benefitted, Pakistan

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

government benefitted. So, what I feel is that similarly, I... I trusted Khaled Sheik what he said, I... I believed him, but I didn't do any investigation or I would... I should have advised U.S. government. That is the mistake I... I cannot make investigation on people...

(BM INTERRUPTS DET)

BM: Okay. So... I just wanna stop you there cause I think you've... I heard you say this before and I read the transcript of the last time and you've talk about that. Can... can... so that's it. Your... your biggest flaw is that you trust to easily. You don't have anything else you wanna say on that front?

(BM AND DET SPEAKING AT SAME TIME)

DET: [Inaudible]

BM: And I'm sorry if I'm sounding hostile, but it's just a little bit unbelievable to me, but...

DET: Yes, Ma'am.

BM: Go ahead.

DET: I trust people, but I do... act... try to do things as legally as the law required.

BM: So that... that's a flaw that you try to do things as legally as the law required, or is that...

DET: No.

BM: No? Okay.

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

DET: No. I trust people that... but I... I don't do things without looking into the... the law.

BM: Okay. So, your flaw is... that... that is it... that... you have nothing else that you have regrets in terms of your own actions... not actions, I'm sorry was asking... I was not ask... asking about actions, but in terms of your own personality and your own characteristics your... your only flaw that you see in yourself is that you trust people too easily.

DET: I trust people and... and I think another probably in my subconscious is a business greed.

BM: Okay.

DET: That was the problem.

BM: And has that greed manifested itself in other ways? Like, how... how else have you seen that other... with the exception of the wanting to do business with bin Laden and Khaled Sheik Muhammad?

DET: The only thing which I... I feel that... that... in my subconscious greed was making programs with them or accepting their investment into my business.

BM: Okay. Thank you.

(BM AND DET SPEAKING AT SAME TIME)

BM: I guess...

DET: There were other people FBI and... FBI investigated.

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

There are some other personnel... persons in Pakistan they invested in my company also and they verified that also.

BM: So, you have other people who are under investigation who've al... you've also done business with. Is that what you just said?

DET: No, no, no. They were... they... they were not investigated, but they came... the FBI came to know that they invested in my business and they didn't object to their investment; of cash investment in my business.

BM: Okay. Thank you.

DET: It's very common in Pakistan to make investment in... in businesses.

BM: Yes.

PM: And so... but your American partners, what happened to them? Where are they?

DET: I have no idea. My wife tried to contact them; they haven't responded them and my... they owe to me of... of the company in Pakistan about \$300,000 which they have not remedied. My wife went to the court of law in Pakistan and she has a judgment in our favor. That's the only thing I know about them and... my attorney tried to contact them, but they never responded.

(BMs CONFERRING)

PM: Sir, I just wanted to clarify a point. I'm just

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

putting on mute for a moment.

(BMs CONFERRING)

PM: I understand that you the letter from August now from your family. Did you wanna take a look at those and go back to those questions or are you happy with the information that you've provided us there?

DET: I would like to go through it and... and there any question, I will answer.

PM: Okay. Well we'll give you just a moment then to look through those letters and refresh your memory.

DET: Thank you, Ma'am.

(DET REVIEWING LETTERS)

(BMs CONFERRING)

(DETAINEE SESSION RECESS AT 10:45 HOURS)

(DETAINEE SESSION RESUMES AT 10:59 HOURS)

PM: All right. It looks like you're done reading. Can I ask you a question?

DET: Please, Ma'am.

PM: Good. Let me... since you've had a chance now to look at those letters, let me go back to where I started. The... the letters from your children are pretty convincing that they're happy to take care of you and... and allow you and your wife a good retirement. So, can you talk to us again then about now

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

seeing those offers, what you think of that and what retirement looks like to you.

DET: If... if there are enough investment as they stated, I never knew about all these facts what they mention in these letters. If they are facts, I will certainly retire and I don't have to wind up any businesses of them already.

PM: Okay.

DET: You know if you look at the... Mustafa's letter, he says that I had two jobs in Dell Computer and the other one in Oracle and he quit and he's working in a... in a climbing business entertainment industry. I ask him a very simple question, "Did you make any money?" His reply was not yet. Similarly with my younger daughter, she said the same thing. She's working in a N... NGO and I ask her, "Did you make any money?" She said, "Not yet". So what my... my concern was that they're probably doing things which is financially not benefitting them. So, I will guide them how to... to make money out of whatever they doing. That's the only teaching I would like to give them.

PM: So, wha... then what do you think of their letter... are their letters to us truthful as you understand it?

DET: No, Ma'am. They... they are... they will honestly try to help me as much as they can, but my feeling is that... they're... they're... what I read from my elder daughter [Inaudible], that

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

they have invested some money in the bond and... and a mutual funds which I was not aware of at all. But if that is the case, then I don't have to get any involvement in any business [Inaudible] people.

PM: Okay.

(BMs CONFERRING)

PM: All right. Mr. Paracha, that concludes our questions for you from the Board. 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 not?

DET: I feel that it could... if... if the Board feel appropriate they can post it on the website. I have nothing to hide as far as I'm concerned.

PM: Okay. So, we'll plan to post the transcript to the website then.

DET: Yes, Ma'am.

PM: For the Personal Representative, do you have any final questions for Mr. Paracha?

PR: If you had a choice to go back and not do business with Osama bin Laden, would you change that? Would you not do business with Osama bin Laden.

DET: Of course not. I will not.

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

PR: Okay. That's my only question.

PM: Okay. Mr. Paracha, do you have anything further you wish to tell us?

DET: I am willing to accept any conditions Board would put on me on my release and I will follow that religiously.

(BMs CONFERRING)

PM: Okay. We do have one more question. Sorry, go ahead.

BM: I'm sorry... for the late question, but can you just tell me what your views are on the Afghan Taliban, the Pakistani, and the... Pakistani Taliban, and Haqqani network today?

DET: As much as I can see from the media, that's the only point of view I can give you. The Pakistan, I read a book... the Guinness Book of Record [sic] of 2015. Pakistan is the number one targeted of terrorism attacks. So, these are the people doing it in Pakistan. So, I... I am concern about it; I don't support them. I... I would support the Pakistan government whatever Pakistan government is doing at this is stage.

BM: So, you see the Afghan Taliban, TTP, and Haqqani network as all the same? I mean, they're different organizations and they've conducted different level of attacks.

DET: My feeling is that Haqqani group, I haven't seen any terrorist attack in Pakistan, but I have seen the Tar... Tehrik-e

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

Pakistan Taliban [sic]. They... they take... they take the responsibility and they are trying to destabilize Pakistan.

BM: And the oth... and the Afghan Taliban?

DET: Afghan Taliban, I don't know about Pakistan if they doing anything. What... I don't know... they have... they are working in the... in Afghanistan. I offered my services way before 9/11 that if the U.S.A. government allows me, I can... I can deal with some educated Taliban to... to coordinate with U.S.A. and... and be Taliban to bring peace into that area. That... that what I already submitted in my last hearing.

BM: Right. So is that... that was your view in 2001. Is that your pre-9/11... what is your view today about the Afghan Taliban?

DET: Well, it's a... it's a confused issue at the moment. I think they're not trying... they are trying to destabilize the government which is not... which is not proper to do that. I'm... I feel they should... they will shake with U.S.A. and Afghan government and... and try to bring peace into Afghanistan.

BM: Okay, thank you. Sorry for the late question.

PM: Okay. So, Mr. Paracha, was there any closing statement you wanted to give us?

DET: That's all, Ma'am.

PM: Okay. Thank you. In that case...

UNCLASSIFIED
Approved for Public Release

DET: Thank you.

PM: In that case, your participation in today's hearing is concluded. We'll continue in a classified session and your Personal Representatives will remain and continue to advocate on your behalf. And then we will deliberate to determine whether continued law of war detention is warranted in your case. You'll be advised of those results. So, I'd ask that we all stay seated until further instructed by the Case Administrator.

CA: We will take a 15-minute recess and prepare for the remaining session.

[The detainee session closed at 1110 hours, 21 March 2017.]

[END OF PAGE]

ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYM KEY

BM:	BOARD MEMBER
DET:	DETAINEE
PM:	PRESIDING MEMBER
PR:	PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE