

PERIODIC REVIEW BOARD, 05 MAY 2016
SANAD ALI YISLAM AL-KAZIMI, ISN 1453
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE STATEMENT

Good morning ladies and gentlemen of the board. We are the Personal Representatives for ISN 1453. Thank you for the opportunity to present Mr. Sanad Ali Yislam al-Kazimi's case.

From our first meeting in early March, Sanad has willingly participated in the Periodic Review Board process and has attended all meetings with his Personal Representatives. During this time, Sanad has been very forthcoming with his answers to all of our questions. We would characterize his personality as open, honest, polite, passionate and very enthusiastic. He has also shown a gentle side while describing how he cares for a cat and her kittens with in the camp.

Sanad is very passionate about returning to his family and desperately wants to reunite with his wife and children. His love and pride for his wife and children is unmistakable and, despite the distance between them, he has taken a very active roll in raising his sons and daughters. Missing his daughter's wedding was very hard on him, he said it was the first time he cried. He has also told us how his children compete with their grades in order to impress him. Sanad has forbidden his sons to apply to the military or the police academy due to the instability in the country and the government and therefore the uncertainty of the future in either field. Instead, his older son has submitted his grades and applied for schooling in the field of oil science, while the younger one prefers a career in civil engineering. Sanad has encouraged their goals as he told us that every parent wants their kids to do better than them and he does not want them to make the same mistakes he has made. Both careers would also allow them to work anywhere, ensuring a much more stable future.

All of his family members have pledged unwaivering financial and emotional support regardless of where he is transferred to. He has taken advantage of the educational opportunities while detained at Guantanamo, taking classes in English, Computer Science and Life Skills. His English is very good and with that, his studies here at GTMO, and his previous work experience we believe that he will be able to find good honest work wherever he may be transferred and will be able to provide a peaceful life for his family.

We are certain that Sanad's desire to pursue a better way of life if transferred from Guantanamo is genuine and that he does not represent a continuing significant threat to the United States of America. Sanad is open to transfer to any country, but would prefer an Arabic speaking country if possible. His only wish is to be a productive member of society and live the rest of his life in peace with his family.

Thank you for your time and attention. We are pleased to answer any questions you may have throughout these proceedings.

PERIODIC REVIEW BOARD INITIAL HEARING, 5 May 2016
SANAD AL-KAZIMI, ISN 1453
PRIVATE COUNSEL OPENING STATEMENT

I am James Cohen, Private Counsel to Mr. Sanad al-Kazimi for the Periodic Review Board, and along with my colleague, Martha Rayner, I have represented Mr. al-Kazimi for over ten years. Professor Rayner and I are full time professors at Fordham University School of Law, where we teach in the school's clinical education program.

I have met with Mr. al-Kazimi extensively over the past ten years and developed a far-reaching personal and professional relationship with him. This includes legal guidance and advocacy in a host of fora both domestic and international, personal support, and preparation for this hearing today.

Mr. al-Kazimi was captured in 2003 when he was thirty-three years old. He was already married with four children. His youngest was less than two years old and his oldest just seven at the time. Now, he is forty-six. His children's ages range from fifteen to twenty-two years old. Mr. al-Kazimi's family has kept in regular, consistent contact with him through International Committee of the Red Cross phone calls, even during this last year when the war in Yemen has uprooted them. He understands that repatriation to Yemen is not feasible at this time and will accept resettlement to whatever country the United States deems acceptable. He plans to find full-time employment and support himself wherever he is placed.

Throughout my time representing Mr. al-Kazimi, I have met and had several conversations with his family. In fact, our legal team has been in consistent contact with them over the past several weeks to prepare for this hearing. His wife and children have provided letters and video clips expressing their love and support. While his family is aware that he may not be able to return to his home country of Yemen, they have pledged to continue to provide

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this love and support and will strive to be reunited with him in his new home, wherever that may be.

In addition, prior members of Mr. al-Kazimi's legal team have provided letters to the PRB detailing their positive experiences and knowledge from working with him. This includes law students, civilian employees of the military, and military officers.

At every meeting throughout our decade-long relationship, Mr. al-Kazimi has demonstrated a genuine interest in Martha's and my life, our respective families' well-being, and our health and travels. I, along with Fordham University School of Law's clinical program, am committed to providing the support necessary to assist Mr. al-Kazimi to establish a peaceful and productive life upon resettlement.