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CA: This Periodic Review Board is being conducted at 0901 hours on 8 September 2016, with regard to the following detainee: Hassan Muhammad Ali bin Attash, ISN 1456.

As a reminder, the unclassified portions of these proceedings are being recorded for the purpose of generating a transcript to be posted on the PRS website.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

CA: Representatives from the following agencies are present and are members of the Board:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE;

DEPARTMENT OF STATE;

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE;

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY;

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE; AND,

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF.

The following personnel are also present:

LEGAL ADVISOR TO THE BOARD;

CASE ADMINISTRATORS;

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES;

PRIVATE COUNSEL;

TWO TRANSLATORS;

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THE DETAINEE; AND,  
SECURITY OFFICER.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

CA: The detainee's Personal Representatives, Private Counsel, the detainee, and one translator are located at detention facility, U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. They are attending via video teleconference and the detainee waived translation of the unclassified summary, and Personal Representatives' and Private Counsel's opening statements. These documents have been posted to the Periodic Review Secretariat website. This session is being observed by foreign, national, and local media, and representatives from non-governmental organizations.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: Good morning. This Board is convened to determine whether continued law of war detention is warranted for Hassan Muhammad Ali bin Attash, ISN 1456, to protect against a continuing significant threat to the security of the United States. From here forward, we'll refer to the detainee as Hassan. This session...

TRANS 1: ... [BEGINS TRANSLATION]...

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PM: ... I'm sorry, this session of the hearing is unclassified.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: Hassan, this is your Periodic Review Board to determine whether continued law of war detention is warranted in your case. Continued law of war detention will be warranted if it's necessary to protect against a si... continuing significant threat to the national security of the United States. The focus of this hearing is on the threat you may pose to the United States and its interests, if transferred or released from U.S. custody. It is not on the lawfulness of your detention.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: The Personal Representatives and Private Counsel are your representatives to assist you during this process. Finally, the translators ensure that everyone understands your statements and that you understand what is being said during the hearing.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: Personal Representatives and Private Counsel, has Hassan had an opportunity to review the unclassified summary?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]...

PR 1: ... Yes he has, Ma'am.

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PM: Thank you. I'll read the unclassified summary:

Hassan Muhammad Ali bin Attash, ISN 1456, served as a facilitator and explosives specialist for al-Qaeda in the early 2000s. He grew up immersed in violent extremist ideology, coming from a family closely associated with Usama bin Ladin. Hassan was an aid to several senior al-Qaeda members, helping run safe houses, facilitating the movement of fighters, and completing errands. He also supported numerous plots against the United States and other Western targets in Afghanistan, Pakistan, the Middle East, and North Africa. He was skilled in bomb making and contributed to al-Qaeda's explosive... ax... explosives activities and capabilities.

Hassan's extremist activity began in Afghanistan in 1997, when he pledged allegiance to Usama bin Ladin. He participated in basic and advanced military and explosives training, probably including poisons training, briefly supported the frontlines, and served as a bodyguard for bin Ladin. In 2000, he relocated to Pakistan to facilitate logistics and travel for al-Qaeda, which he continued doing intermittently for about two years. He also facilitated al-Qaeda external operations against the U.S. and other Western targets, and was himself selected to participate in two such planned attacks. Concurrently, in 2002,

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Hassan built, procured, and delivered explosives for al-Qaeda in support of anti-coalition attacks in Afghanistan. Hassan was arrested in an al-Qaeda safe house with senior al-Qaeda operatives and 9/11 operational coordinator Ramzi bin al-Shibh, ISN 10013, in September 2002.

Up until 2013, Hassan was non-compliant and hostile with the guard staff at Guantanamo. In August 2013, he became highly compliant, likely to improve his chances for release. Nonetheless, he continues to harbor an extremist mindset and has made statements which indicate he believes westerners are his enemies and that he remains intent on reengaging after detention. Hassan has associated or corresponded with several at-large terrorists, including former Guantanamo detainees.

Hassan has expressed a desire to participate in Saudi Arabia's extremist rehabilitation program, rejoin family, marry, and start a family of his own. Hassan's family in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, is unlikely to help him transfit... transition to a peaceful life because they support violent extremism and because they lack the financial resources to provide significant aid to him beyond housing him. Hassan probably could leverage family ties and terrorist contacts sh... to reengage should he decide to do so.

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Do the Personal Representatives and Private Counsel wish to make unclassified opening statements at this time?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR 1: Yes, Ma'am.

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: All right. I'd like to remind all participants that information shared at this time must be unclassified. If there's a concern about the classification of information, I will indicate as such and stop the proceedings until we resolve the issue. Has Hassan had the opportunity to review your statements?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR 1: Yes, Ma'am.

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: All right. Personal Representative, please proceed.

PR 2: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen of the Board. We are the representatives for ISN 1456. Thank you for the opportunity to present Mister Hassan Muhammad bin Attash's case. Mister Hassan has continued to participate in the process and has been very understanding with the constant date changes by his PRs and his PC.

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From our first encounter and all subsequent meetings, Hassan has been very engaged, fervent, and understanding in the preparation of his Periodic Review Board. From the onset, Hassan has demonstrated an optimistic outlook towards life after Guantanamo Bay. He is currently working on his U.S. High School GED with a goal of completing it this fall. He is fluent in English, Arabic, Pashtu, and speaks some Urdu and Persian. Upon his transfer from Guantanamo, he has a strong desire to attend college and work as a translator in order to provide for himself and for a future spouse. Since 2013, Hassan has been very compliant with few disciplinary infractions. As a block leader, he was commended by the Officer in Charge for solving daily routine issues within the camp.

Hassan arrived at Guantanamo at a very young age. During this time, he has been very open to learning Western culture and the English language. Most of all, he is interested in furthering his education and has demonstrated a willingness to absorb new ideas no matter which culture it may be. During his time at Guantanamo, he has attended Art, English, Computer, Life Skills, and History classes.

Hassan would prefer to return to Saudi Arabia where his parents and siblings are located. He is more than willing to

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participate in the Saudi Arabian rehabilitation program but is also open to transfer to any country that is willing to accept him where security measures can be met. Since nearly half of the Saudi Arabian working population is foreign born, Hassan believes his language skills along with his strong desire to meet new people from diverse backgrounds will serve him well in a linguist/translator career. He would like to become certified in this career field in order to obtain work and provide for his future family.

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

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

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]...

PC: ... Yes, Ma'am...

TRANS 1: ... [CONTINUES TRANSLATION]

PC: Good morning. I'm David Remes, Private Counsel for Hassan bin Attash, 1456, a Yemeni national born in Saudi Arabia. I have represented Hassan in his habeas corpus case for 11 years this August. I have seen him countless times and I believe I know him well.

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Hassan is the youngest Guantanamo detainee. He left home when he was about 13, was captured in to... September 2002, when he was about 17, and was brought to Guantanamo in December 2004, when he was about 19. Hassan is now about 31. He has spent his entire adulthood.. adult life in Guantanamo. I have watched him grow into adulthood. At all times, I found him to be more sensible and level-headed than many others of his age.

Hassan is engaging. He has a quick wit and reads people well. I make a point of seeing him on every visit. He is very friendly, and I consider him a friend. If circumstances allowed, I would have him as a guest in my home. Hassan also has a strong sense of right and wrong. Now a young man, with a mind of his own, he is no longer under the sway of others and can make independent decisions. I have never heard him deprecate the American people or American values, or express extr... extremist views.

Hassan arrived at Guantanamo with only an elementary school education. He did not know English when I first met him; now he is fluent, and his English is unaccented. His goal of becoming an Arabic-English translator is certainly realistic. Hassan has a thirst for knowledge generally, and has taken advantage of all available educational opportunities here. He has an insatiable

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appetite for news about current events. When the prison still made availab... when the prison still made such publications as the New York Times and the Washington Post available to detainees, Hassan devoured them. He assiduously watches English-language news channels. Closely following Guantanamo-related developments in Washington, he has developed a sophisticated understanding of the way our political system works, and the vagaries of American politics.

I hope that the Board concludes, as I have, that Hassan is no threat to the security of the United States. He should be transferred to the reintegration center in Saudi Arabia and prepared for a new life in the outside world. The Board should approve him for transfer. Thank you.

PM: Thank you. Board Members may reserve questions until detainee and witness statements have been presented in their entirety. Does anyone have a question, at this time?

**(NON-VERBAL RESPONSE FROM BMS)**

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: All right. With no questions, this concludes this portion of the hearing. I'd ask that we all remain seated until further instructed by the Case Administrator.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

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CA: We will take a 15-minute recess to prepare for the remaining sessions.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

[The public session closed at 0915, 8 September 2016.]

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ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYM KEY

BM: BOARD MEMBER  
CA: CASE ADMINISTRATOR  
PC: PRIVATE COUNSEL  
PM: PRESIDING MEMBER  
PR 1: PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE ONE  
TRANS 1: TRANSLATOR ONE (LOCATED AT PRS HQ)  
TRANS 2: TRANSLATOR TWO (LOCATED AT GUANTANAMO BAY)