

PERIODIC REVIEW BOARD FILE REVIEW, 14 MAR 2018
SHARQAWI ABDU ALI AL-HAJJ, ISN 1457
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE STATEMENT

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen of the Board. I am the Personal Representative for Mr. Sharqawi Adu Ali Al-Hajj. Mr. Sharqawi is a newly assigned client. Since my first meeting, Mr. Sharqawi has been very cordial and easy to get along with. He has good communication skills and has been eager to hear about the new Executive Order. He is hopeful that with the new Executive Order in place, that there will be some releases, and he wants to be one of those released.

Mr. Sharqawi continues to attend classes offered here in Guantanamo. He is open to repatriation anywhere and feels he is capable of working and assimilating with other cultures. Guantanamo has introduced Mr. Sharqawi to many new cultures and to working with women. He has adapted well and enjoyed learning about different cultures and he feels this will serve him well and make his transition a smooth one.

On behalf of Mr. Sharqawi, we are asking for a new Full Board, where Mr. Sharqawi can share his plans for the future and the business he hopes to start.

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PERIODIC REVIEW BOARD FILE REVIEW, MARCH 14, 2018
SHARQAWI ABDU ALI AL-HAJJ, ISN 1457
PRIVATE COUNSEL STATEMENT

Members of the Periodic Review Board:

I am Private Counsel for Sharqawi Al Hajj and submit this statement for consideration in Mr. Al Hajj's March 14, 2018 file review.

For Mr. Al Hajj's last file review in September 2017, I submitted a statement drawing attention to Mr. Al Hajj's ill health, which persists today. Specifically, I referenced a motion for an independent medical examination of Mr. Al Hajj and his medical records, filed in the D.C. District Court on September 6, 2017, after Mr. Al Hajj fell unconscious in his cell and was hospitalized in connection with his hunger strike at the time. The motion discussed long-standing health problems Mr. Al Hajj suffers, including a history of Hepatitis B, recurrent jaundice, extreme weakness, and chronic abdominal pain, that were being exacerbated by his refusals of food. In its response to the motion, the government described numerous medical tests and procedures that have been conducted on Mr. Al Hajj at Guantanamo over the years, from 2004 to the present, including multiple ultrasounds, CT scans, lab analyses, EGDs, and a colonoscopy. These demonstrate that although the government and Mr. Al Hajj may disagree about the gravity of his condition, his complaints and symptoms are real, chronic, have been taken seriously, and will inevitably worsen as a result of the natural course of aging coupled with the obvious stresses of his continuing detention, presenting new risks and additional medical needs. Indeed, Mr. Al Hajj reported to me that during a medical appointment in December 2017 his doctor expressed concern about Mr. Al Hajj's health.

In addition to his ill physical health, Mr. Al Hajj's emotional health in particular has deteriorated over the course of the past year, partly because of the aggravating effect of his feeling of chronic weakness and pain, and because of his growing hopelessness about any real prospect for transfer in the foreseeable future. As a result of his overall malaise, Mr. Al Hajj has reported to me that he spends most of his days lying down in his cell or just sitting in his cellblock, unable or without desire to read, exercise or attend detainee classes, despite that he previously did and enjoyed all of these activities.

His declining condition has also more recently resulted in friction with camp personnel. These incidents should be understood as a reflection of his present circumstances and growing despair, not his desires or intentions, or any blanket animosity. Mr. Al Hajj has had many positive and cooperative relationships with guards, his doctors, camp commanders, and other government officials over the years, one of whom submitted a statement in support of Mr. Al Hajj for both his November 2016 file review and February 2017 full hearing. Even in times of frustration and tension, Mr. Al Hajj has been able to demonstrate good will. For example, in its response to Mr. Al Hajj's health motion, the government described Mr. Al Hajj's interactions with the Senior Medical Officer and medical staff during his emergency hospital admission last July as "compliant," "respectful," "apologetic," and "appreciative."

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Mr. Al Hajj has participated, in one form or another, in every PRB proceeding he has been afforded in a sincere effort to demonstrate that he is not a threat to the United States and, indeed, was never motivated by animosity toward the United States, as demonstrated, for example, by his time with the Bosnian army in the 1990s, when he served on the same side as the Americans.

Alongside these efforts, he also recently reinitiated habeas proceedings in an attempt for judicial relief, through a motion filed in the district court on behalf of 11 detainees on January 11, 2018.

As Mr. Al Hajj has expressed repeatedly to the Board, he wants only to put his past behind him and rebuild a life with the remaining years he has left, which may be limited because of his health. He hopes to have another opportunity for a full hearing before the Board so that he may try again to demonstrate the sincerity of his intentions, and so that the Board may query him about his present state of health and mind, which it has not had the opportunity to do since the downturn in his health last summer.

I am available to answer any questions or provide any further information about Mr. Al Hajj that may assist the Board. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Pardiss Kebriaci
Center for Constitutional Rights

Private Counsel for Sharqawi Al Hajj (ISN 1457)

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Respectful Periodic Review Board members, Suitable greeting,

I am detainee "SHARQAWI ABDAH ALI AL HAJ", YM-1457. Born in my country Yemen in 1974. I was detained in Pakistan at the beginning of 2002 and brought to Guantanamo detention at the end of 2004. I spent approximately sixteen years in the detention without any official charges or tried in court. My continuous detention is based on the classifications of the prior Board was because I still pose a great threat to the security of USA and its allies. Even though, I personally don't consider myself as a threat to anyone. I'm known by everyone to have the reputation of being a person who loves security and peace for all and I don't hold hatred towards anyone and never in my entire life have I insulted anybody. Therefore, how could I cause a threat to the security of the most powerful country in the world and its allies? Despite the difficult matter, the civil war in my country Yemen, my family's harsh situation due to the war and for not providing me with the possible opportunities due to the detention circumstances, I tried my very best to cooperate with the previous Personal Representative, participated with the Board and communicate with anyone to prove my truthfulness. Therefore, I did my very best to be forthright and to prove my truthfulness and that I do not cause a threat to anyone.

My expectation is to be released from the prison, forget the past, and start a new valuable life for me within the society that I'll live in. For remembering my past and its impact on my future ruined and destroyed the remainder of years of my life. I was very optimistic and the Board members treaded me kindly, but the Board's decision was shocking to learn that I still pose a threat to the security of the USA and its allies. I do not know what kind of threat someone like me can cause. Is it possible for the most powerful country in the world and its allies of being unable to prevent such a danger, if there is any? But by continuing my open-ended detention until death or an indefinite fate. Does the American government actually need to spend ten millions dollars a year and not being competent to release me with the guarantee that I don't cause a threat to it (USA) and its allies? Respectful Board members, I don't know how to express myself nor prove that I am being truthful. I want to be released and start a new life away from any extremism or violence. I wish well for all.

My outlook for the future is to get married and have a small family and live a decent, peaceful life in a safe society. My plan for the future depends on the condition of the country that will accept me, but in I am a social person and able to interact peacefully and respectfully with others, it is a credo, "Treat people the way you want to be treated." I am a quick learner and can master any profession that's befitting of my health and physical conditions. I had planned to prepare a project to make aluminum for its important use in the modern world. The steps to start this project is to start a small workshop and then expand it. But I also have the ability to learn quickly and gain any skills that suits my health status and frail stature.

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Respectful Board members; I hope that you review my file with an open mind. Is it possible for a person like me to pose a grave threat to your security or the security of your allies? What should I do to prove to you my truthfulness? And what are the conditions or guarantees you require of me to perform and abide by? Because honestly I don't want to pose as a threat or danger to anyone, I respect others and want to earn their respect and trust. Thank you for your hard work for allowing me another opportunity to begin a new life.

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