CA: This periodic review board is being conducted at 0914 hours on 30 January 2018, at the Periodic Review Secretariat Headquarters, with regard to the following detainee: Khalid Ahmed Qasim, ISN 242.

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 the
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF.

The following personnel are also present:

LEGAL ADVISOR TO THE BOARD;
CASE ADMINISTRATORS;
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE;
PRIVATE COUNSEL;
TWO TRANSLATORS;
THE DETAINEE; and a
SECURITY OFFICER.
UNCLASSIFIED//FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

CA: The detainee’s personal representative, private counsel, the detainee, and one translator are located at the 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 Representative’s opening statement. These documents have been posted to the Periodic Review Secretariat website. This session is being observed by foreign, national and local media, foreign government officials, 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 Khalid Ahmed Qasim to protect against a continuing significant threat to the security of the United States. From here on forward, we will refer to the detainee as Khalid. This session of the hearing is unclassified.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: Khalid, 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 is necessary to protect against a 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 Representative 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 Representative and Private Counsel, has the detainee had an opportunity to review the unclassified summary?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR 1: Yes, sir.

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: Thank you. I will now read the unclassified summary.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: Khalid Ahmed Qasim, ISN-242, received basic and advanced instruction at Al-Qaida’s al-Farouq training camp before 9/11 and possibly provided weapons training to militants.

Do the Personal Representative and Private Counsel wish to make unclassified open statements at this time?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR 1: Yes, sir, I would.
PM: I would like to remind all participants that any information shared at this time must be unclassified. If there is a concern about the classification of the information, I will indicate such and we'll stop the proceedings until we resolve the issue.

Has the detainee had the opportunity to review your statements?

PR: Yes, sir, he has.

PM: Personal Representative, you may please proceed.

PR: Members of the Board, thank you for the opportunity to address the concerns raised by the Periodic Review Board’s file reviews and Mr. Qasim’s earlier full board review. I have been Khalid’s Personal Representative off and on for the past 3 years. Shortly after his CLOWD judgment, Khalid stopped attending the PR meetings. However, in the past year, he has attended all PRS meetings and he’s been a willing participant in this process. He is here today and anxious to answer the Board’s questions in hopes to obtain your bid to release or repatriation. During the last 3 years, I have seen a noticeable change in Khalid in his behavior. He’s been in GTMO for almost... for over 15 years. He arrived here in May of
2002 when he was just 25-years of age. He has matured and grown while in detainment. He will be the first to admit that he’s always... he is not always the most compliant detainee. However, I’ve seen a significant change in the way he communicates and tries to handle prestige injustices. Khalid had found a renewed interest in the arts and spends most of his days drawing, painting, and sculpting. Some of his artwork was recently showcased at an art show in New York City, and the reviews were positive. Khalid’s artwork was not for sale, but experts agree that Khalid could make a living using his talent. Art has offered Khalid a creative and peaceful way to express himself. Khalid’s family has been supportive throughout his detention and continues to offer both monetary and emotional support to Khalid to aid in his transition upon release. In addition to the support offered by Khalid’s family, Reprieve has committed to be there and to assist Khalid in starting a new life. I do not feel that Khalid is a threat to the national security of the United States. His behavior is that of a young man frustrated and sure if he will ever be free to the confines of GTMO. I believe that Khalid would be a good candidate for release. He’s agreed to attend and participate in any repatriation process that the Board deems necessary. Thank you for this opportunity. Khalid, Ms. Sullivan-Bennis and I are standing by to answer your questions.

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

(NO VERBAL RESPONSES FROM BMs)

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

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

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

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

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

[The public session concluded at 0923, 30 January 2018.]

[END OF PAGE]
ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYM KEY

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