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CA: This Periodic Review Board is being conducted at 0905 hours on 14 June 2016, with regards to the following detainee: Haroon al-Afghani, ISN 3148.

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;

THE DETAINEE; AND,

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**SECURITY OFFICER.**

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

CA: The detainee's Personal Representatives, 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 summon... summary, and the Personal Representative's and Private Counsel's opening statements. These documents have been posted to the Periodic Review Secretariat website. This session is being observed by 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 Haroon al-Afghani, ISN 3148, to protect against a continuing significant threat to the security of the United States. From here forward, we'll refer to the detainee as Haroon. This session of the hearing is unclassified.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: Haroon, 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 security of

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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 everybody 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 Haroon had an opportunity to review the unclassified summary?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR 1: Yes, Ma'am.

PC: Yes, Ma'am.

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

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

Haroon al-Afghani, ISN 3148, was a Hezb-e... Hezb-e-Islami Gulbuddin, or HIG, commander who organized and led attacks on Coalition forces in Afghanistan and for a time served as a link between senior al-Qaeda members and other anti-coalition fighters. He worked as a courier for al-Qaeda commander Ab... Abdul [sic] al-Hadi

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al-Iraqi, ISN 10026, until 2004 or 2005. He provided logistics support to fighters aligned with al-Qaeda and HIG, and probably collaborated on operational matters with leaders of other anti-coalition groups. Haroon was arrested by Afghan security forces with six HIG associates on February 4, 2007 and transferred to Bagram on May 5, 2007.

Haroon has incurred a moderate number of disciplinary infractions relative to other detainees, of which the majority were failures to comply with instructions from the guard force, according to Joint Task Force Guantanamo's record of his compliance.

Haroon has repeatedly focused on medical issues and writing letters to camp staff with requests and queries about his Periodic Review Board status. He has not voiced his views on extremism.

Haroon probably would prefer to return to Afghanistan or Pakistan, where the majority of his family lives and where we assess he would have ample opportunities to reengage in terrorist activities if he chooses to do so, most likely with HIG but also potentially with former associates in al-Qaeda, the Afghan Taliban, or Pakistani extremist groups.

Do Personal Representatives or Private Counsel, wish to make an unclassified opening statement at this time?

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TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR 1: Yes, Ma'am.

PC: Yes, Ma'am.

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

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

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR 1: Yes, Ma'am.

PC: Yes, Ma'am.

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: All right. Personal Representatives, please proceed.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR 2: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen of the Board. We are the Personal Representatives of ISN 3148. We will be assisting Asadullah Haroongul this morning with his case.

Since our initial notification, Haroon has attended all meetings with us and has earnestly participated in the Periodic Review process. Based on our interaction with Haroon as well as the way he talks about his daughter and her education, it is very apparent that

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he does not possess hardline extremist ideals, especially with regards to women.

Haroon has conducted himself in a professional and patient manner throughout all engagements with his Personal Representatives. His study of the English language in the past four years made our meetings very productive. He has a proven history of relatively compliant behavior while detained at Guantanamo. He has also been compliant in his engagement with the Joint Task Force Medical Staff in order to deal with multiple health issues. This teamwork has improved his quality of life.

He has taken advantage of the many opportunities for education and personal enrichment while detained at Guantanamo. These opportunities include en... courses in English, Nutrition, and Art.

Haroon is fortunate to have a very supportive family remaining in Pakistan and England compo... comprised of his spouse, daughter, father, mother, brother, and three sisters. His family members and the town elders have pledged unwavering financial support, a place of residence, and assistance with employment during his transition to the utmost of their ability.

Subsequently, Haroon will discuss both his past and his desire for a better life for himself in the future. He is open to transfer to any country, but if given his choice, he would prefer to be

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transferred to Europe. Even though he himself is a Muslim, he has no problem integrating with anyone of any religion. We do believe that Haroon's desire to pursue a better way of life, if transferred from Guantanamo, is genuine and that he does not represent a continuing or significant threat to the security of the United States of America.

Thank you for your time and attention. We are pleased to answer any questions you have throughout this proceeding.

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

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PC: Esteemed Periodic Review Board Members, my name is Shelby Sullivan-Bennis. It is my privilege to represent Haroon al-Afghani and to appear before this Board today.

Haroon has come a long way since he arrived at Guantanamo many years ago. He has taken advantage of many of the courses offered and excelled in all of them. He has been compliant during his time in detention and has enjoyed all of the privileges that accompany his status.

Having completed a four-year university program in Economics and mastered five different languages, Haroon is more able than most to begin a productive and peaceful life upon release. He wants nothing more than to return to his wife and daughter, whom he feels immensely

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guilty for having left to fend for themselves. It is his feeling of responsibility to support them that will lead the charge of his search for a better life.

Uniquely, Haroon has not had the benefit of an attorney for the duration of his time here at Guantanamo. Where Reprieve, as habeas attorneys for other detainees, has been able to orchestrate successful inter-governmental communication and placement, Haroon has only had the support of his family to vie for his welfare.

I start now, at quite the late date, on a quest to provide Haroon with the support he should have gotten years ago. Enhancing his quality of life, facilitating family, as well as governmental communication, and most importantly, organizing for his release. This is a great undertaking, but Reprieve is likely the best placed organization for the task.

With affiliate offices in both Pakistan, where Haroon's wife and daughter live, as well as London, where his sister and her family live, Reprieve is uniquely situated to offer the utmost support to Haroon in his resettlement. We have represented over sixty Guantanamo detainees and our UN-funded "Life After Guantanamo" program has provided on-the-ground support to 38 former detainees and their families. In many cases, we visit the former detainees in-country post release and help them adjust to their new surroundings.



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In 2015 alone, we visited 17 former detainees and family members in their home or host countries, working with them and the local government on social integration issues. We consider it our continuing duty to forge relationships with local authorities and non-governmental organizations to provide them with the services they need, and we stand ready to do the same for Haroon.

Thank you for taking into consideration the information we have provided. We respectfully submit that Haroon al-Afghani should be approved for transfer from Guantanamo, consistent with the President's mandate to close the prison.

PM: 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: With no questions, this concludes this portion of the hearing. I ask that we all remain seated until further instructed by our 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]**

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[The public session closed at 0919, 14 June 2016.]

[END OF PAGE]

ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYM KEY

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