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CA: This Periodic Review Board is being conducted at 0908 hours on 02 February 2016, at the Periodic Review Secretariat Headquarters, with regard to the following detainee: Yassim Qasim Mohammed Ismail Qasim, ISN 522.

(TRANS 1 conferring with CA)

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;

TWO TRANSLATORS;

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**THE DETAINEE; AND,
SECURITY OFFICER.**

Private Counsel is unable to attend today's hearing.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

CA: The detainee's personal representatives, the detainee, and one translator are located at the detention facility, U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. They are attending via video teleconference. This session is being observed by foreign, national and local media, and representatives from non-governmental... non-governmental organizations.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: Good morning, Personal Representatives. Does the detainee wish to raise... waive translation of the entire hearing, including all the written statements provided by the Personal Representative, the Private Counsel, and himself?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR 1: No ma'am, the detainee wishes to waive translation of only the unclassified summary, Personal Representative statement, and Private Counsel statement.

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: All right, thank you. In that case, this Board is called to order. The Board is convened to determine whether continued law

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of war detention is warranted for Yassim Qasim Mohammed Ismail Qasim, ISN 522, in order to protect against a continuing significant threat to the security of the United States. From here on forward, we'll refer to the detainee as Yassin.

This... this session of the hearing is unclassified.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: Yassin, this is your Periodic Review Board to determine whether continued law of war detention is warranted in your case. Your continued law of war detention will be warranted if it is necessary to protect against a continuing significant threat to the 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 are your representatives to assist you during the process. And finally, the translators will 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, has the detainee had an opportunity to review the unclassified summary?

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TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR 2: Yes, ma'am.

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: All right, thank you. I'll read the unclassified summary,
now:

Qa... Yassin Qasim Muhammad Ismail, ISN 522, traveled to Afghanistan in 1999, underwent extensive combat training, and probably fought alongside al-Qaeda members. Upon his arrival in the country, purportedly to train for the Chechen jihad, he stayed in Afghanistan and Pakistan until his capture at Tora Bora in late 2001, suggesting that he found common cause from extremists there. Yassin received training at three camps and completed basic and advanced weapons instructions, as well as training on land mines. He stayed at al-Qaeda guesthouses, studied at religious institutes affiliated with the group, and probably fought and led teams of al-Qaeda fighters in Bagram and Tora Bora. Yassin has made conflicting statements about the extent of his affiliation with al-Qaeda. We judge that he had connections with and access to some senior members of the group, but did not play an organizational role in al-Qaeda.

Yassin's behavior and statements while at the Guantan... Guantanamo Bay detention facility indi... indicate that he retains extremist views, although he has told U.S. officials that he does not

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intend to reengage in terrorist activity. He has repeatedly expressed interest in extremist conflicts, repeatedly expressed a strong dislike for the United States, and has attempted at times to incite other detainees against the guard force. His own compliance record is mixed. Most of his 558 infractions occurring during the widespread detainee hunger strike from 2013 to 2014. He has repeatedly threatened to harm himself in an effort to manipulate the detention staff. Yassin has provided little information of value during debrie... debriefing sessions. He has expressed a desire to be transferred to an Arab or other Muslim country and probably would struggle to integrate into a culture different from his own.

Should Yassin return to Yemen, he would probably seek out support from family members or other former associates, some of whom will have ties to AQAP. His paternal cousin, Rashad Muhammad Sail... Sa'id Ism... Ismail, is a longtime al-Qaeda affiliate and AQAP recruiter who'd be well-placed to help Yassin reengage in terrorism. Rasheed's [sic] brother is former Guantanamo detainee Sadiq Ismail, YM 069, who was repatriated to Yemen in 2007. There is no reporting indicating that YM 069 has reengaged in terrorism, nor do we know whether he has reintegrated successfully into society.

Do the Personal Representatives wish to make an unclassified opening statement at this time?

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TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR 1: Yes, ma'am and in lieu of Private Counsel, we will read his opening statement.

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: Thanks. I'd like to remind everybody that the information shared at this time must be unclassified. If there's a concern about classification of the information, I'll indicate as such and we'll stop the proceedings until we resolve the issue.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: Has the detainee had the opportunity to review the statements?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR 2: Yes, ma'am.

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: All right. Then, please proceed with those statements.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR 1: Members of the Board, we are the Personal Representatives for Yassin Qasim Mohammed Ismail Qasim. When I first went to meet Yassin, I was uncertain if he would participate in the meetings since he was on a hunger strike. During our first meeting, he explained to me that he was very happy that we were there and he felt hopeful for... for the future as being detained made him feel as if there was no

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tomorrow. He went on to explain to me that the reason for his hunger strike was not out of rebellion, but that he wanted to bring focus on being detained so that he could get some sort of resolution, but not cause animosity. He just felt hopeless. He offered that day to stop his hunger strike because he felt that he could see some hope for the future. His demeanor is one of a serious, thoughtful man which both my partner and I can confirm.

Yassin comes from a large family that owns a farm which has been in the family for generations in Ye... Yemen. He has learned how to work this business growing up throughout his years... school years with his father. This farm is now so large that his family has to hire extra helpers. Upon his release, even if he does not able to return to Yemen, this farm's value and the money generated from it will help financially support Yassin wherever he is reintegrated. In addition, he has two brothers that work in Saudi Arabia that can assist him. His brothers work in business which Yassin is considering as an employment option. His goals for his future involve continuing education, building a family, and reconnecting with his family.

As we were getting to know Yassin, we learned that he has spent much of his time reading and learning while in GTMO. We listed the many health and medical books and journals as he read as an exhibit in his case file. In fact, because of his passion for health, he has

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started counseling others detainees in nutrition to increase their knowledge in an effort to assist with their quality of life. Yassin has used his years in GTMO actively learning about nutrition and medicine which he may continue to study once he leaves here. As you will see during his opening statement, he also is working on his English. He will not leave GTMO the same way he entered, but he will also have broadened his mind. He will have the support of his family and is looking to creating a successful future. We appreciate your time to hear his case and your consideration for transfer.

Yassin understands that in order to be recommended for transfer he must first gain the Board's approval. Therefore, he is willing and ready to answer your questions.

We are here throughout this proceeding to answer your questions.

PR 2: We will now read the Private Counsel's opening statement.

Good morning. I am David Remes, Private Counsel for Yassin Qasim Mohammed Ismail, ISN 522.

I have represented Yassin in his habeas corpus case since two thou... July 2004 and have met with him dozens of times. I have also met with members of his immediate and extended families on several trips to Yemen. In addition, I currently represent Abdalmalik Wahab, a second cousin of Yassin by marriage, whom the PRB cleared in December 2014, and I represented Yassin's second cousin Sadeq Ismail,

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who was repatriated to Yemen in July or... June 2007. I spoke with Sadeq on January 3, 2016, and with Yassin's brothers on December 20, 2015. I am submitting a separate statement summarizing those conversations.

Yassin is intelligent and perceptive. He is serious and well-mannered. He is a fine writer and a natural teacher. He thinks through his actions and makes his own decisions. I especially value my meetings with Yassin because he is a close observer of life in the camps and provides context for detainees' concerns. I can confirm that he is well-respected by other detainees. Yassin is also deliberate. He has viewed his hunger strike as a form of peaceful protest, the only means of expression open to him. He was only trying to make himself heard. I know that he had some other form of peaceful protest, he would have stopped his strike. In light of this proceeding, he has stopped his strike and hopes to persuade the Board to clear him for transfer.

Yassin is not a threat to the national security of the United States. His cousin started a family after he returned to Yemen and lives a peaceful life as a day laborer. His brother, who also has family, is pursuing a Ph.D. in engineering. The Board who cleared his cousin Abdalmalik Wahab for transfer. Whenever... wherever Yassin is sent, he will likewise have a family and live a normal life. He

aspires to teach Arabic, which my habeas linguist, a master of classical Arabic, considers him well qualified to do. At age 36, Yassin has lost the wanderlust and the thirst for adventure he had once at 22. After 14 years at Guantanamo, he has no appetite for politics and simply wants to get on with his life.

Yassin prefers to go to an Arabic-speaking country, but his goal is release, and he is ready to go wherever the United States sees to send him. He is all ready to accept such security conditions as the U.S. may require and to take part in the rehabilitation and reintegration programs. He does not require continued detention. I urge the Board to approve him for transfer. Thank you.

PM: Board Members may reserve that your questions until the detainee and witness statements have been presented in their entirety. All right. Does any Board member have questions for personal representatives in this forum?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

[No verbal response from the members.]

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

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

[The public session closed at 0926, 02 February 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)