

**PERIODIC REVIEW BOARD FILE REVIEW, 31 AUG 2016
YASSIM QASIM MOHAMMED ISMAIL QASIM, ISN 522
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE STATEMENT**

Members of the Board, thank you for the opportunity to address the concerns raised by the Periodic Review Board, conducted on 26 JAN 2016, as well as information contained in the recent unclassified dossier. As during the PRB Hearing, Yassim actually goes by the name Yassin and this is the name I will use during my statement since I have known him by this name since December of 2015 when I met him.

When I first met Yassin, he was very shy. But, I have seen Yassin change a good deal over the time I have known him. Although he received a negative Final Determination, I have actually seen his personality become more open and personable. As a detainee with little control in life, during our first meetings, he had let me know how hopeless he felt in GTMO and that his hunger striking and non-compliance was his means of action to bring attention as he felt he was being treated unjustly. But as soon as the board was scheduled, he immediately stopped his hunger strike and his non-compliance. When I delivered the final determination, he was disappointed. While some detainees receive a negative final determination and revert back to causing problems in the camp, Yassin instead was more determined to work towards seeing a future for himself. He worked closely with me so he could address unresolved issues mentioned by the board in preparation and hopes that the Board would give him a second Full Review Board.

Yassin has become active in classes such as Life Skills, English, Math and Art. As demonstrated in his art work, he is both passionate and gifted in the area of Art, proudly creating more pieces than any other detainee in GTMO. He feels passionately about creating art. He did not even start until five months ago but already has improved tremendously. Also, now that he can consider a possible future, he has plans for a future business to include a vegetable or fruit stand/juice stand. He speaks of family, a wife and a life after GTMO. At one time, the future was not even a possibility but now he is seriously considering it. His demeanor has completely changed because he still has a hope of leaving GTMO.

While he has not been able to speak to his family for a few months due to the violence in Yemen, his family and friends have sent their ongoing support in letters. He is completely aware and preparing to go to another country. His family is willing to send support to him in any country, if he is transferred. I appreciate your consideration for a new Full Review Board for Yassin. He has taken steps to address everything in his Final Determination.

PERIODIC REVIEW BOARD FILE REVIEW, 01 SEP 2016
YASSIM QASIM MOHAMMED ISMAIL QASIM, ISN 522
DETAINEE STATEMENT

Dear members of the board,

Greetings, I, detainee Yasin Qasim Mohammad Isma'il, would like to express my appreciation and gratitude for giving me a second chance and opening the door of hope in front of me. I want to inform you that I received the news of the board determination and I was shocked but never lost hope. I hope that I can have another opportunity for a board so that you can see my sincerity and that I have done as the board has directed. My wish for a full board is so that I can answer your questions candidly so that you can hear something that may have been left unanswered. I want to let you know that I have benefited from my time in detention from many benefits like; I pondered through all that happened in my life and realized that I was young and an adolescent and behaved like a teenager. I learned through my time in detention that I was wrong in many things and I wish and affirm that I will not repeat my mistakes of the past.

I used to be a radical, and I had many misconceptions, wrong thoughts. Now, Thank god, I left radicalism behind and my philosophy in life has changed to believe that radicalism and extremism does not belong in any religion. I would like to assure the government and members of the board that I am no longer a radical and I am innocent of all kinds of radicalism and radical groups. I will avoid all radicals and reject them where ever they are, even if they were related to me. I want to inform the board that I do not carry any hatred towards the United States. As I stated, I will avoid all radical groups and I will never repeat my past mistakes.

I would rather not to return to a country that is ravished by conflicts or violence, I want to live righteously and start a new life with god's will. After release, Yasin, will be a different person than the one before detention.

I have taken practical steps like: in regards to Rashad, I have asked my family during our phone call on 26 May, 2016 to cut all contacts with him. I also

asked my lawyer, David Remes, to not have any contact with Rashad if it had anything to do with my case. I would like to remind the Board members that during my time in Guantanamo I never had any contact with Rashad, he was never at my family's house during my calls with them, and I never received nor sent any letters or greetings. I don't want you to be concerned about this, and to be truthful I acquitted myself from him and all of the radicals wherever and whoever they are.

Regarding the training that I received, I did train for the reason of going to Chechnya and thank god I did go. After considering my life, I think coming to GTMO may have prevented me from entering into a life of extremism for which I am thankful. I already forgot all that training and I do not care to remember it. I don't want to train again. Regarding the Taliban, there is something you need to know and that is the difference between going to the front lines, or joining the fighting groups of Taliban and actually fighting. What I deny is my participation in the fight. I never said that I did not go to the front lines at sometimes. I did go to the front lines and I was a guard. Maybe if the situation presented itself to fight, I would have. But the situation was never presented at that time when I was there due to the non-participation of Arab fighters in the fight. I hope you differentiate between the two matters.

I also would like to let you know that at the previous board the translator translated the wrong sentence or question when you asked about fighting. He translated it as if I ever fired a weapon. There is a huge difference between these two questions which I will explain to you if I get granted another board, god's willing.

Members of the board, I have taken your recommendations in consideration, and I appreciate your attention and guidance. I have done the following:

1st. I continued my good behavior with the detention facility administration.

2nd. I took advantage of the available learning opportunities like drawing, English, life lessons and computers.

3rd. due to concerns about the future planning, I studied a detailed small business plan that I explained in a summary. I hope you receive a copy of it. In addition I mentioned examples as a practical study of what I learned from the businesses. You will receive some examples. I continue to in building up my talents and study many other small businesses in case I get a job when the board makes my wish come true by releasing me.

4th. I learn English and continue to learn. I took 4 quizzes and passed them with good grades.

5th. I learned math and sent you some of what I learned.

6th. I continue to learn computers.

7th. I learned some health and psychological lessons that benefited me greatly. My behavior has been much more positive. I wish I took these at the beginning of my detention maybe my behavior would have been different.

8th. There is support from my family, and relatives who are ready to support me whether I go to Yemen or anywhere else.

I am trying everything available, but I want you to understand an issue which is the difficulties of contacting my family due to the disorderly security situation in Yemen which hinders the movement of the ICRC.

Members of the board I hope that I did not take too much out of your time but one last thing I want you to know "I do not have any problem going to any other country beside Yemen no matter if it is an Arab or non-Arab country but I would rather it be an Arab country due to the ease of reintegrating in the society. I trust you and know that you will give it a great attention for the best choice." Your determination will receive the up most respect and gratitude from me. Thank you, the personal representatives, the lawyers, my mother, siblings,

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members of my village, and everyone that participated in the process of my case inside and outside the detention facility.

Yasin Qasim Mohammad Isma'il

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