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[The detainee session for ISN 522 opened at 0959, 8 November 2016.]

CA: The Periodic Review Board is reconvened at 0959 hours on 8 November 2016, with regard to: Yassim Qasim Mohammed Ismail Qasim, ISN 522.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: Yassin, during this hearing, you have an opportunity to make a personal statement or answer questions. It's your choice whether to make a statement or to answer questions during this session. Do you understand my explanation?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Yes.

PM: Yassin, Board Members have had a chance to review your written statement prior to today's hearing. Do you want to read your statement?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: No.

PM: Yassin, you're not obligated to answer any questions posed by the Board Members. Do you want to answer our questions?

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TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Yes.

(BMs CONFERRING)

PM: All right I... I'll start with a... I'll start with a question. Then, turn it over to my colleagues.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: In your file review, you stated that you would be more candid with us about your experience in Afghanistan and why you went there.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: So, please tell... tell the Board about your experience in Afghanistan, your military training, and your experience in combat.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I... I went through a basic training.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I trained on the Kalashnikov.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And physical training.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

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TRANS 2: I... I... I almost finished the basic training.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I participated in some courses like training on fighting in the mountains.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: As for the second part of the question, I didn't have a significant role, but at one point, I was present with the Taliban.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I was present in the front lines and also guarding, but I didn't participate in fighting.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I was eager to go to Chechnya, but I wasn't able to.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: So, I decided to go back to Yemen after my fiancé arrived to Pakistan.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And the events took place, and I wasn't able to.

PM: So, about how long were you in the training camp?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

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TRANS 2: I don't remember very well right now. I went there a few times.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I also stayed some time in the institute.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: In the... in the houses.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... I don't remember exactly the time, but I had mentioned it when I was in Bagram.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: At the time, I mentioned it to the interrogators when I... when I remembered.

PM: So, about how much time did you spend in the training camp?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I don't know how long, but maybe a few months.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: The first training took about maybe four months, but it wasn't consistent four months... wasn't continuous four months because of the snow fall.



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DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... Also, the mo... the movement of the camp from one place to another.

PM: So, you said that the first time was about four months. Did you have other times in training camps?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... Too clarify more...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... To clarify more, the basic training is only 45 days. The reason it lasted four months was because of the snow fall and the movement of the camp.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: As for the other training, I remember training for two weeks on the veka [sic]...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Beka.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I attended training for the mountain fighting, but I don't remember how long.

(BMs CONFERRING)

TRANS 1: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

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BM: So, the camp that we're talking about, was that the al-Qaeda al-Farouq training camp?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Yes, it was al-Farouq camp.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Oh, 'cause it's the original camp... it... it's...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: The name of the camp is Aseel [phonetic spelling].

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: The location where al-Farouq camp was was named allah Aseel [phonetic spelling].

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Also in Malik camp.

BM: Why did you go to this camp?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: That was the one available.

BM: But why... why did you feel that... the need to go to a

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training camp?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: 'Cause... 'cause I wanted to go to Chechnya. So, I had to train.

BM: So, you wanted to... you wanted to become involved in a jihadi fight?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: My intent was not to join a group. It was to help the Chechnyan [sic] people.

BM: help the Chechnyan [sic] people do what?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: At the time, that's how I... how I thought. I wanted to help them against the Russians 'cause there was a war during that time.

BM: How were you going to help them?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Of course, during the... those days, I thought about fighting with them.

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BM: You said you also attended the al-Qaeda training camp in Malik?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Yes.

BM: Why did you go to that camp after you've already have received training at al-Farouq?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: The training that they had at that camp at the time was... like beka, was not available at al-Farouq.

BM: What... what type of training? You said the only training you received was on a Kalashnikov and physical training.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Of course like I said, I trained on using the Kalashnikov. So, my personal weapon was the Kalashnikov.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: As for Malik's camp, I trained on using the beka, which is the machine gun. I don't know what size it was.

BM: Did you... did you receive any training on grenades or

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mortars?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 1: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

TRANS 2: We only studied them theoretically. We didn't train on them.

BM: Did you receive any training in surfaced air missiles or land mines...

TRANS 1: [BEGINS TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

BM: ... Or explosives?

TRANS 1: [FINISHES TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I didn't train on using any missiles 'cause even Taliban didn't have them.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: But with... part of the basic training was training on using some of the machine guns, which were older guns that were used against air craft...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

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TRANS 2: ... Like DShK.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... I forgot some of the names.

BM: Did you receive any training on land mines or explosives?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I haven't trained on expl... explosives.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: But for the land mines, I only studied them theoretically, not... not... I didn't train on them.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: It was part of the basic training to learn some information about land mines.

BM: Did you... did you study that at al-Farouq and Malik, or somewhere else?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: In al-Farouq.

BM: Did you attend the training camp in kala... Khaldan?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

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TRANS 2: I haven't gone to these camps.

BM: And again, why did you feel that you needed to receive all of this training?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Like I said, I wanted to go to Chechnya, and it was impossible to go to Chechnya without training.

BM: During your travels between these camps, did you work with or become associated with either al-Qaeda or Taliban members?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: As individuals, when we mo... when... when camp moved, all the individuals moved no mat... no matter where they be... which groups they belonged to.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: As for the movements outside of the camp, I used normal cars.

(PR AND TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

BM: Did you... did you associate with any Taliban or al-Qaeda while you were in these camps?

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TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: In the camp, no one knew who belonged to al-Qaeda or another.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: The camp was open for anyone to train.

BM: And which group were you a member of?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I didn't join any group or organization.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: But I was present with some of the Taliban [sic] at some times.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: But I didn't join any organized groups.

BM: When you were...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I was with the Taliban at some of the front lines.

BM: When you were in these camps and with the other people you were training with, what were their thoughts and ideology?



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Why were they training?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Some were training to join... to... the fight with Taliban later.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And others were just training to go back to their countries.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Others were... they stayed at the guest houses after they trained.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Of course some wanted to go to other countries, and some of them wanted to go to Chechnya after they finished training.

BM: But all... all of the people at these camps were training to engage in fighting... in combat?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Honestly, I don't know.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: But some just wanted the training for the sake of

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the training.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I... I knew some Yemenis who went there to train because they had some tribal issues.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And they returned to Yemen probably to assist his tribe over another.

BM: So, was Afghanistan the only place where you could receive this type of training? Was there no training in Yemen or anywhere near... closer by?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Training in Yemen was not available ex... unless you joined the military.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Of course for the Yemeni people, they have personal weapons that they can use.

BM: Did you go to Tora Bora? Were you in Tora Bora?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: For a few days.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

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TRANS 2: Not in the beginning. I didn't even know there were people in Tora Bora.

DET: **[SPEAKING IN ARABIC]**

TRANS 2: But we were on the way to Pakistan.

DET: **[SPEAKING IN ARABIC]**

TRANS 2: Some Afghans met us and told us, "There were Arabs in that location. We will take you there."

DET: **[SPEAKING IN ARABIC]**

TRANS 2: And they told me that there was a Yemeni... an injured Yemeni with them.

DET: **[SPEAKING IN ARABIC]**

TRANS 2: ... They told me, "Since you are a Yemeni, we want you to take him with you."

DET: **[SPEAKING IN ARABIC]**

TRANS 2: I went there for a few days. I... I don't remember how long.

DET: **[SPEAKING IN ARABIC]**

TRANS 2: I didn't even know that there were Arabs at that location.

BM: How was the Yemeni injured?

TRANS 1: **[TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]**

BM: Was he injured in combat?

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TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: According to what he told me, it was... it was bombing by airplane.

BM: Why did you go to Tora Bora?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Because the... the roads to Pakistan were dangerous at that time. So, the Afghans told me, "You can go to that place and we'll try and get you out with that Yemeni."

BM: Did you go to Tora Bora to use the training ski... the skills that you'd learned in training?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: No.

BM: While you were...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: If I had that intention, I would've gone there sooner when the fights started there. I didn't even know there were people there.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: My going there was not intentional. It was only

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after they told us there were Arabs there.

BM: Did you lead a group of people there or a group of fighters in Tora Bora?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I... I didn't lead any group in Tora Bora.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: But when we were with the Taliban...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... Some of the times, I had ten people under me.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: But for... when I was in Tora Bora, of course with that injured person with me, I considered myself responsible for him.

BM: When you said you had ten people under you, in what capacity? How were you leading them?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I didn't give any orders. During the training, everyone took a chance to lead a group. So, it was my turn to lead a group when I went there.

BM: Who were these people?

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TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Arabs. We went with the Taliban.

BM: Were these other people that had been in the training camps with you?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Yes.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... When... when we were training, we didn't have the intention to join Taliban, but during that time, a place called Bamyan fell. So, they asked us to join them.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: So, we... we moved to help them with the same format.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And before we got there, the Taliban were able to take back that place.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: After that, they turned us to go to Bagram.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And no fighting took place during that time we

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were there.

BM: So, you and your group of ten people were going to help fight with the Taliban?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: That was what was supposed to happen, but it didn't happen.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: The Taliban took back the place before we got there.

BM: Did you attend the institute for Islamic studies in Kandahar?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: There... there was no jihad. There was an institute called the... the Arab-Islamic Institute.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: But when I checked the curriculum, I found out that the same curriculum I had studied in Yemen.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... So, the... the curriculum was the basic curriculum. So, I stay... I didn't study it, but I stayed in the

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institute to read in the library.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: The reason I didn't study is not because I refused to. It was because this... the... the level of the curriculum there was lower than my knowledge at the time.

BM: How long were you there?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I don't remember exactly, but there were a few months.

BM: Why did you go there? ...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: You can check the old interrogation files. I... I remembered at the time.

TRANS 1: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: After 15 years, I... I don't.

TRANS 1: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I like to study. I like knowledge.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And the institute had a large li... a large library



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with different sections.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And in Afghanistan, it's almost... it's almost impossible to find a place with Arabic books.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: But the institute had a library that had... most of the books in it were in Arabic.

BM: If the institute had a curriculum that was below you, why didn't you just return to Yemen?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

BM: Or go somewhere else where there was...

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

BM: ... Where there was a more challenging curriculum?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: During the time, I still had the intention to go to Chechnya. That's why I didn't leave.

PM: Why did you never get to Chechnya?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: In the beginning the roads co... problems were complicated.

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DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And the roads were unsafe.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: So, in the last days, I decided not to go after all and just go back to Yemen.

BM: While you were at the institute, did either Osama bin Laden, Ayman al-Zawahiri [sic], or Khalid Sheik Mohammad visit the institute while you were there?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: None of those people visited the institute while I was there.

BM: What... in general, what do you think of their ideas of global jihad, and that the West, especially the United States, is evil?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

TRANS 2: Excuse me. I need to clarify the question. Was the question about the terrorist groups or Osama bin Laden...

TRANS 1: ... No...

TRANS 2: ... And al-Zawahiri?

TRANS 1: You're talking about the three guys?

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BM: Both.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: That group had their... its own ideology and they didn't hide it. They announced it to... in publicly.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: But personally, I didn't really agree with it.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: When I went there, my intention was to go to Chechnya.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: When I left Yemen to go there, I didn't even know there was al-Qaeda there.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: But my way of thinking at the time was that since Taliban was a legitimate government, that there shouldn't be any other groups.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And probably people there heard that from me that my opinion was that those groups were illegitimate groups.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

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TRANS 2: Because how can they say that the Taliban is a legitimate government, and then, they form other groups.

BM: So, what did you understand their philosophy or ideology to be?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: It's a wrong one.

BM: But what was it?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I... in my time in Afghanistan, I didn't really follow any news, but of course, I knew in general that they had a problem with Americans.

(PR AND TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

TRANS 2: Is the question about Taliban or others?

(PR SPEAKING WHILE BM IS SPEAKING)

BM: Well, the question... the question now is what did you understand Osama bin Laden and al-Zawari [sic], and Khalid Sheikh Mohammad's views to be?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

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TRANS 2: For me, my... their mindset were wrong.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Okay. I had, in general, an idea that they had a problem with America, but I don't have a detailed opinion about their way of thinking.

BM: So, why did you think the...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

BM: Go ahead.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: But my opinion of them was that they committed wrong acts.

BM: What were the acts that they committed that were wrong?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: One of them is targeting civilians.

(BMs CONFERRING)

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Another one is declaring anyone who oppose them

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as an infidel.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Also forming armed groups under a government they claimed was legitimate.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Another reason that they caused the war that... that caused many people to die who... who hadn't nothing to do with the issue.

BM: So, why did you think that their views were wrong?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Because they didn't listen to any of the Muslim leaders or... or scholars. They just had an agenda or goals they wanted to achieve no matter the way.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Most of the Muslim muftis and the Muslim countries opposed them.

BM: Did...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Even the... their own imam or mufti. I watched a program where he said that he even opposed their ideology.

BM: So, did you believe what they were fighting for was

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wrong?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Yes. My opinion was that what they did was wrong.

BM: So, why did you go to camps that were sponsored by them to train people to do the wrong type of fighting?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: When I arrived there, I didn't really know what was going on there, I found out later.

(BMs CONFERRING WHILE TRANS 2 IS SPEAKING)

PM: I'm sorry. Can you repeat that, please? ...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: When I went there, I didn't know what was going on, but I found out later.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... The second reason was that their... they... they were the available camps for the training.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And they... they didn't specify or put conditions on the people who joined the training that they have to be part

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of their group.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: It was open to anyone to join.

BM: First I wanna thank you for... for you participation today. I tell ya that when I looked at your request to... for the hearing, I was happy to hear that you wanted to further discuss, and to be a little bit more forthcoming with... with your past and with your... your understanding with how things have changed for you.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Thank you.

BM: In your statement...

TRANS 1: ... The second question after you said...

BM: ... It's okay. In your statement, you stated that... you stated that you wa... that you had absolved yourself of all extremist thoughts. Can you share with us what your extremist thoughts were, please?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: In those days, I was a teenager. I thought as a



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teenager.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: At the time, I thought that individuals were able to change what was happening.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Probably at the time, I thought that violence was a way to use.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: But now, after reading so many books and watching programs, I have come to the realization that we were wrong.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: In addition to that, I have learned many things in like art and English, and I have learned to accept others.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I now think in a positive way.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And I don't believe that violence is a way to change things in real life.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And we shouldn't have left our families in Yemen.

BM: Who taught you that vi...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

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BM: Who taught you that violence...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

BM: Who taught you that violence was a... a way to correct these wrongs?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: No one really planted it in me. It was the way a teenager thought at the time.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: For example, I didn't think at the time that there were countries and there was a Security Council that they were able to get involved.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And that there were countries that they... that could stand by other countries that were wronged or...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: But now, I understand the larger picture.

BM: Did you have any Islamic teachings or... or... yeah, did you receive any Islamic teachings when you were a young boy?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Not as a boy, but for three years when I was from

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se... being 17 until 20.

BM: And what were you taught with regard to jihad?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: What I learned that those schools and institutes where we learned, anyone who had that ideology was kicked out of the school.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Any people who had jihadi or extremist ideologies, they kicked them out of school.

BM: Were you kicked out of the school?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 1: No...

TRANS 2: ... I was stopped for... for about three days.

BM: I'm sorry. Explain that again...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 1: ... He said, "I was..."

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: They suspended me for three days from school 'cause I travelled with my cousin to Aden.

TRANS 1: He was like AWOL.

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BM: But they never suspended you because of your beliefs in jihad?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: They didn't even know.

BM: Did you have a belief in jihad at that time?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I was sympathetic with the Chechnyan [sic] people at the time.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And that... and that I had to go and fight with them.

BM: Because they were Muslim?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Not just because they were Muslim, because we saw that they were oppressed.

BM: And why did you feel they were being oppressed?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: That's how the media said at the time.

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DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: All the Muslim and Arab media was talking about it, and also in the street... people in the street were talking about it.

BM: When... how old were you when you left Yemen to go to Afghanistan?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I was 20.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I was born in 1979 and I travelled in 1999.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: End of 1999.

BM: So, you indicate in your statement that you had taught that Qur'an in Afghanistan. What did you teach about the Qur'an in Afghanistan?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

(BMs CONFERRING WHILE DET IS SPEAKING)

(TRANS 2 AND PR CONFERRING WITH DET)

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I didn't teach Qur'an or Arabic officially.

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DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Where I was a member... or a teacher in the ministry of education.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: But Afghans and non-Arabs, like Pakistanis, came to me to teach them Qur'an.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Or when they wanted to learn Arabic, I taught them Arabic.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... They had... they had books for beginner Arabic students, and I helped them to learn how to pronounce.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Whether I was in the institute or at the mosque, whoever came to me, I... I taught.

BM: So, what specifically did you teach them about the Qur'an?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... Reading it, reciting it...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Reciting it properly.

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DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Because I am Arab.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And they are non-Arabs. So, they have problems pronouncing some letters...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: So, I had to correct how they recited.

BM: You state that you would like to teach... or potentially you could teach the Qur'an without a salary you said. When you... if you were to be released from GTMO, what would you teach people about the Qur'an?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: If I am to be released to an Islamic... or to a Muslim country where they have teachers, I would need to study myself; but if I am to be released to a non-Arab country and some people wanted to learn how to read the Qur'an properly, I would be willing to teach them how to read it.

BM: Who paid for your trip to Afghanistan?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: My own... I funded it myself 'cause I worked.

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BM: How much money did it cost?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: It wasn't much. It was probably two hundred dollars.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... The total was about two hundred dollars.

BM: And who's gonna finance your trip to chet... your follow-on trip to Chechnya?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 1: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... I heard that there were people in afghanis...

TRANS 1: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... I heard that there were people in Afghanistan who...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... I understand the question.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: There were individuals in Afghanistan who prepared people to travel to Chechnya.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]



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TRANS 2: Whenever somebody thought about going to Chechnya.

BM: And who were these individuals?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: There was a sa... specific guest house for people who wanted to go to Chechnya.

BM: Who paid for residence in the guest house?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I don't know.

BM: You didn't pay?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: No I didn't pay for my money.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Those guest houses were open for free in Afghanistan.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: You were able to eat, drink, and sleep for free.

BM: Was there any type of payment or service that was expected of you as a result of receiving these things?

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TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: No, they weren't expecting any payment. Those houses... the guest houses that were open for free belonged to Taliban.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Even Taliban didn't pay for it.

BM: You stated that you were present with the Taliban on the front lines guarding, but not fighting, is that correct?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: That's... this is true. I was present with them for guarding, but during that time, all the line where Arabs were present, there was no fighting.

BM: What did you do on the front lines?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Guarding.

BM: Guarding what?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Guarding during the night so that no one will

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breach the line.

BM: Who would breach the line?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... The... the... the Northern Alliance.

BM: And what would you do if someone breached the line?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Of course I would... I would react the way any guard would, prevent them from breaching it.

BM: Would you shoot them?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Those days, that's possible.

BM: Did you believe in what the Taliban was fighting for?

(BMs CONFERRING WHILE TRANS 1 IS SPEAKING)

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Of course at the time, I knew that there was some type of Nationalism among the Taliban between the Pashtoos [sic] and the... the Pashtoon and the... the Persians, but I felt that

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they had the... the most tribes.

**(BMs CONFERRING)**

BM: Hi, Yassin. Thank you for speaking with us today.

TRANS 1: **[TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]**

DET: **[SPEAKING IN ARABIC]**

TRANS 2: ... You're welcome...

BM: ... Do you think that it was fair or legitimate that the United States captured and detained you?

TRANS 1: **[TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]**

DET: **[SPEAKING IN ARABIC]**

TRANS 2: They have the right to be careful.

DET: **[SPEAKING IN ARABIC]**

TRANS 2: Of course, there... there is no doubt that I hope that the... the duration wouldn't be this long.

DET: **[SPEAKING IN ARABIC]**

TRANS 2: Especially since all the interrogations proved that there was no charge against me.

DET: **[SPEAKING IN ARABIC]**

TRANS 2: It's true that I trained.

DET: **[SPEAKING IN ARABIC]**

TRANS 2: I was hoping that by being truthful in the interrogations that would help in my release.

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BM: So, given that al-Qaeda continues to try to attack the United States and the fact that you trained with that... with that group, why should we re... why should the United States release you now?

TRANS 1: [BEGINS TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

(TRANS 1 CONFERRING WITH BM)

TRANS 1: [FINSIHES TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I admit that my training with them was wrong.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: But I hope that I'm not judged by somebody else's mistake.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Just because they had an ideology and ani... animosity against the United States, I don't hold that ideology.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And also, the training that I took I have forgotten.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I don't... and I don't ter... intend on taking the training again or even remembering it.

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PM: Why was it wrong? You said it was wrong to train with them. Why was it wrong to train with them?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I shouldn't have trained with extremists and radical groups.

PM: Why?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: If I had known that it was going to affect my future, I wouldn't have trained with them.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I had a simple way of thinking. I didn't think that training would cause trouble in the future.

PM: What about how your training and your participation with al-Qaeda and the Taliban... what about how it hurt other people? What do you think of that?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: If my training with them have hurt other people... I know that they have... they have the wrong ideology, but I

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believe now that even leaving Yemen was a mistake on my part.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Moreover, I did not personally commit any act to harm anyone.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Yes, I did train, and I don't deny it.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And I was going to go to Chechnya, and I admit it.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And I spent some time with the Taliban. I do not deny it.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: All of these were the past mistakes and I try to forget them and think about the future.

BM: So, how do you feel...

(BMs CONFERRING)

BM: ... You mentioned that... that you previously fought with the Taliban because they were the legitimate government of Afghanistan. How do you view the Taliban today?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET WHILE TRANS 1 IS SPEAKING)

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DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: After spending some time here watching TV programs, reading many books, some of them were by the Egyptian Islamic Group. They explained what the Taliban is and what they are about. I know now that what I did was a mistake.

BM: Can you... can you just be a little more specific on what was a mistake?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: My thinking... my thinking of violence was wrong.

BM: No. I'm sorry. I'm asking about the...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

BM: ... I'm asking about the... the Taliban, not... not your mistakes.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

(DET SPEAKING WHILE TRANS IS SPEAKING)

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: After thinking, I realized that Taliban also had wrong ideas. The first one was opposing the international order.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]



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TRANS 2: Also them depriving the people from many things like education and the roads. They made things difficult for the people.

DET: **[SPEAKING IN ARABIC]**

TRANS 2: Also them allowing groups to attack others from their land.

DET: **[SPEAKING IN ARABIC]**

TRANS 2: They had ex... some etre... extremist group ideas as well.

BM: Thank you.

TRANS 1: **[TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]**

BM: In your personal statement...

DET: **[SPEAKING IN ARABIC]**

BM: ... You said that...

TRANS 2: ... You're welcome...

BM: ... You requested your family to abstain with any dealings with Rashad. Can you explain why... why you made that request?

TRANS 1: **[TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]**

DET: **[SPEAKING IN ARABIC]**

TRANS 2: Even though I know that my family thinks moderately, I am... I was afraid that anything would influence

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them.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: After that, my desire to cut any association, or dealing, with anyone who has extremist situation.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I want to start a new life... a new way.

BM: So, what would you say to Rashad if... if he reached out to you, if you were released from Guantanamo, and asked you for... for your assistance in his cause?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I now have a strong immunity in the way I think. So, I will not even be eager to meet with him.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I would also like to point out to the Board Members that during the 15 years of being here, I haven't had any communication with him; and he was not party to any of the communications.

BM: Okay. Your Personal Representative stated in... in her statement that you've changed quite a bit over the past year. Can you explain how you think that you've changed over this year, and... and why you've changed?

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TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: There are many things that have changed. Before, I was hopeless. I didn't have any positive thinking.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And also my reactions were not positive.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: But now, I have joined a school.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And I do everything the camp administration tells me to do.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I now act in a positive way.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I made sure to attend all the psychological classes that tell how to get rid of anxiety.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And how to have hope.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And of course, drawing had a big role in me thinking about love, and beauty, and hope.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

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TRANS 2: And I told you in my last Board that I was going to fold the... the old page and start a new one; and I have kept my promise.

BM: So, I... I do like your... your drawings. They're very... they're very nice.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Thank you very much.

BM: Did you... did you have any experience before this here with art, or is this something that you've learned just in the past year?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: This is the first time. I... I only started doing it the beginning of this year. I don't remember exactly when.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: But my instructor told me that I had a hidden talent, and he was able to bring it out.

BM: Thank you, and I... I hope you continue pursuing your artwork.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

(BMs CONFERRING IN THE BACKGROUND)

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DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Thank you very much.

BM: Yassin, you told my colleague that you didn't go to Chechnya because of the road conditions, but you were in Afghanistan for two years. So, why didn't you just go to Chechnya or go home?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I tried for a long time to go to Chechnya, and at one point, I joined Taliban; but I decided toward the end to just go back to Yemen, and just start a life, and get married to my fiancé like my brothers did.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I just wanted to continue my university studying.

BM: You said you wanted to go to Chechnya to help... help them because they were oppressed. There's a lot of suffering in the Middle East now. How should people help or support oppressed Muslims?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: The mistake that we made before was that individuals have the ability to change reality.

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DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: But what I believe now is that... that problems are between countries. There's a Security Council. There's United Nations. There are super powers who are involved and they can resolve the issues.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: There are... there are diplomatic ways.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Poli... political ways.

BM: So, what do you think about the conflict in Yemen right now?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I... I wish that it wouldn't happen. I wish that Yemenis wouldn't fight among themselves.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I didn't hope for a legitimate government to be overthrown.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And many... most of the people agreed on that president after their protests. So, it was wrong to overthrow it or have a coup against him.

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BM: Now that there is fighting in Yemen, how should people respond to that?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: The only loser is the Yemeni people.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And I hope that the war will end with a national truce.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And in one of my phone calls, I requested from my brothers not to get involved in any party to these problems.

BM: In your statement to the board, you said that you have had time to reflect at Guantanamo. Can you tell us about this reflection? What did you learn from it?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Before I was thinking as a teenager, like I said, and possibly as an extremist; but now, I am thinking in a more positive way. I don't think that violence can fix anything, and there are ways now to change things, including elections and..

PM: ... Okay...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

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TRANS 2: Also, tolerating and accepting others.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And I realize that actions done by individuals cause problems in the whole world.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And I noticed that the only victim, or loser, are the innocent people who have nothing to do with it.

BM: When... when you were responding to a question from my colleague earlier, you talked about having built up an immunity I guess to extremist thought. How did you build up that immunity?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I have time to ponder on my decisions at the time and to realize that they were wrong. So, I... I read books and I watched programs, and I made the... the realization that what I did was wrong.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Also, the administration here made available to us a series of books by the Egyptian Islamic Group that... the intent of these books were to... to correct ideologies and to explain how things... or the things that happened and how they



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were wrong.

BM: What do you think your biggest challenge would be after detention?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I don't think there will be many challenges, but I know that there will be a hard time in the beginning after being here for a long time to be released out in... in the open with the society. So, I hope that there will be some rehabilitation period before... before going out.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: 'Cause we are behi... we are 15 years behind people.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... Technology changed, communication ways have changed...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... The way people live has changed.

BM: Okay. Thank you.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

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BM: Good morning... I... I just...

TRANS 2: ... You're welcome...

BM: ... Thank... I just have a few questions.

TRANS 1: **[TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]**

BM: I think a lot of my... my colleagues...

DET: **[SPEAKING IN ARABIC]**

TRANS 2: ... Good morning...

BM: I think my colleagues have covered a lot of what I was  
about to ask...

TRANS 1: **[TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]**

BM: But first, I do wanna thank you for the efforts you  
have made over the last six months.

TRANS 1: **[TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]**

BM: And for your willingness to talk...

DET: **[SPEAKING IN ARABIC]**

TRANS 2: I thank you as well.

BM: And... and for your willingness to talk more openly with  
us...

TRANS 1: **[TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]**

BM: About your activities in Afghanistan.

TRANS 1: **[TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]**

BM: What was the highest level of education that you

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received before you went to Afghanistan?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I graduated from high school.

BM: And was that a... was that the same institution where you received your religious studies?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Yes, my high school that I... I studied Islamic Shari'a.

BM: What was the farthest you went with your secular studies?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I didn't attend college.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: After I graduated from high school, I traveled.

BM: So, I'd noticed you've taken some of the Mathematics courses at Guantanamo.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

BM: Is that the first time you...

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TRANS 2: ... Yes...

BM: ... Is that the first time you've studied that type of mathematics?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: No, I studied in Yemen depending on the... the level, like in the elementary school and middle school, I, depending on the type of math they had in the curriculum, I studied it.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: It has been 20 years since I've studied math since the first year of high school since I studied Islam Shari'a.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: What was new to me was the Computer, English, and Art.

BM: You had mentioned that before you left Afghanistan that it was your hope to go to Pakistan to meet your fiancé.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

BM: What happened to your fiancé?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

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TRANS 2: I don't know anything about her now because of the prison.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: So, I don't... I don't know any of her news after I was in prison.

BM: Do you know if she married someone else?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I have no contact or communication with them, and my family has no communication with them either.

BM: How has that made you feel?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I wasn't lucky and there are other women.

(LAUGHTER)

BM: You... you've mentioned a couple of times, both in responses to questions and also in your statement, this... this book that you read, "The Critical Revision of Concepts."

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

BM: And that was written by the Egyptian Islamic Group.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

BM: First, who...

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DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

BM: ... Who is the is... the Egyptian Islamic Group?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: They are called the Egyptian Islamic Group. Most of them were in prison.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: They were released probably around the time of 2007 after they had an agreement with the Egyptian government.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And they wrote books to explain their own mistakes.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And to explain the mistakes of the other groups.

BM: And... and why do you think that their views are an authoritative interpretation of Islam?

TRANS 1: [BEGINS TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: ... Sorry... sorry...

TRANS 2: [CONTINUES TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: ... Sorry. I... I put it on mute. We have to take the VTC down. So, instead of going into the question 'cause we're gonna lose it.

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(PRS STAFF CONFERRING WITH PM)

PM: ... Yeah, sorry. We're gonna have to take the technology down just to reboot it, and we'll go into the... that last question. So, just stay where you are. It should only take a minute.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

[VTC DISCONNECTED AT 1131 HOURS]

[VTC RECONNECTED AT 1136 HOURS]

PM: All right, we're back.

BM: So, again, to go back to my question, which I believe was... I had asked Yassin why he believes that the book by the Islamic... by the Egyptian Islamic Group is an authoritative interpretation of Islam?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Because what they said was logical to me, and also they had the experience themselves and they admitted that they... from their experience that it was wrong.

BM: Do you know if any scholars have endorsed what they have said?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

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DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I... I don't know of specific people, but I know that most of the Muslim muftis in the world opposed these ideologies.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: But maybe some... some of the people who don't have enough knowledge would not oppose it, but most of the muftis who are... who have the authoritative role to... to give opinions, they oppose these ideologies.

BM: And... and the ideology you're talking about is the al-Qaeda, Taliban, extremist ideology?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: All the extremist groups, including al-Qaeda, and Taliban, and others.

BM: So, to summarize what I think you have told us, it is correct to say that your views have changed over time?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: This is true. Like I said, the things that I thought were correct before, I know now that they were wrong, and I am... I have strived to correct them.



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BM: And when would you say that you began to change your views?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

(TRANS 1 AND 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 1: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... Some things I didn't have...

TRANS 1: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I can't tell you specifically when, but during my time here in prison, I had... I have had the chance to read many books and watch many programs to come to the realization.

BM: And I know you've mentioned one of the books. What... which programs or which... which scholars that you heard speaking have influenced you?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

TRANS 2: Are we talking about programs?

BM: If... if that's what he means by programs.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

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TRANS 2: So, are you talking about TV programs?

BM: He... he... may... maybe to clarify... he... he said that books have changed his thoughts, and one book that he has mentioned is "The Critical Revision of Concepts."

TRANS 1: **[BEGINS TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]**

BM: ... He also...

TRANS 1: **[CONTINUES TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]**

BM: ... He all...

TRANS 1: **[FINISHES TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]**

DET: **[SPEAKING IN ARABIC]**

BM: ... He also said...

DET: **[SPEAKING IN ARABIC]**

BM: Let me clarify...

TRANS 2: ... I think there's something missing where... we're not talking about the books right now. We're talking about the programs, correct? ...

BM: ... That's gonna be the next part of what I'm gonna say. So, he's... he's also said that there have been programs. Those could be DVDs. They could be television, and what I'm assuming 'cause we've heard from other detainees, that there have been particular imams, or scholars that they have heard on DVDs or on television, and I'm asking which of those persons have

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influenced him.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

TRANS 2: So, the... as for the books, it's not just one book. It's a whole se... complete series of books wrote... written by different people.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And I watched different imams or muftis from Yemen, from Saudi Arabia, from other Arab countries who oppose these ideologies on TV.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: So, the... for example, the mufti of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Tunisia, Libya, I watched all the muftis give their opinion which opposed these ideologies.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Also, there is another organization name the... the Muslim Scholar Organization. I watched something from them as well.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: There's also a show I watched on the Abu Dhabi channel by a scholar named Waseem Yousef.

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DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Also, on the Abu Dhabi channel as well, there are meetings and interviews with Egyptian mufti.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And we have many DVDs for several scholars who have the same idea.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And also, my personal research using many Islamic books have... has helped me to reach this belief.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... In a... in addition to the Islamic people, I have also followed and watched politicians and people who have experience with and knowledge about the terrorist groups, and that helped me as well.

PM: I just wanna follow up on that. You... you mentioned you've had this change of mindset over time at Guantanamo, but your behavior, until recently, has been very bad towards the guard force.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: So, it seems like your changing beliefs didn't match your behavior. So, talk to us about how your behavior has changed with your beliefs.

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TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I admit I had a bad behavior, but I distinguished between behaving based on having extreme ideology, or based on having no hope.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: So, I have gone through different stages in Guantanamo. The first period here, I was... I cooperated the most.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: When they started the communal in 2004, I was in the communal.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: In 2005 as well, I was in the communal.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And then, a period had started, I call it the period of nervousness and...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: During that period, I... there were... there were hunger strikes.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Also, protests in the rec or at the

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interrogation.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And there were problems. Most of them were not major problems.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: All of them were basically violating the camp rules.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: But as you can see in the statements, since October 2014, I have changed my behavior.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And the worst period I had was from 2013 until middle of 2014.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And there was a mistake by one of the people in the camp administrator... administration, and our action was wrong.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And when the new cor... colonel came, Colonel Heath... health, we were able...

PR: ... Heath...

TRANS 2: ... Heath... were able to change our behavior.

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DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... He was able... he fixed...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: He helped us to give up the... the periods of nervousness that the... the colonel before him...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Also, my studying helped me to improve my condition.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Especially the psychological courses that helped us how to deal with hard times.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And I consider that the art had the... a big role.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: 'Cause I feel that I spent long times enjoying it.

PM: So, if you were to go into this... your own period of nervousness again, what... what will keep you... or what will get you to be on good behavior, both at Guantanamo and if you are transferred to another country? What will keep your behavior good?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

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DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: As I promised you in my last Board, I have attended psychological... I spoke with a psychiatrist, and my behavior will be a positive one.

PM: Explain that more. Wha... if you're... if you're confronted with nervousness after your transfer, what techniques will you use? Explain it to us.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: First thing is to be patient and not have a bad reaction. The second thing, which I learned through the psychiatrist, is thinking about things.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Also, one of the other things we learned from the psychiatrist is the... the four...

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

TRANS 2: ... Four, seven, eight, which is to take a breath for four seconds, exhale for seven seconds...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... And then...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... Oh... so... take a breath for four seconds, hold it



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for seven seconds, and exhale in... in eight seconds.

PM: Would there be any people that you would rely on if you... if you're transferred, that you needed advice or you needed help? What... who would you go to for advice and help?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Of course I would call psychiatrists.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: But I don't think that I will have any psychologic... psychological problem.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Do you... do you mean... do you mean my family?

PM: I mean who do you rely on for support? Who will support you?

(TRANS 1 CONFERRING WITH PM)

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: If you're talking about the psychological side of it, of course talking to my family, my... my brothers, the people who are around me will have a big role in helping it.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And the psychiatrist as well.

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PM: So, if you feel tempted by a... a radical ideology again, what will you do? Who will you call for support? How will you... how will you... who will keep you on the right path?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET IN BACKGROUND)

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... So, to start, I will never have an extremist ideas.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: But there are educated people - psychiatrists, scholars.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: But I do not anticipate having any extremist ideas in the future.

(BMs CONFERRING)

TRANS 1: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

BM: You've indicated that you've studied the Qur'an quite a bit.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

BM: What do you believe the Qur'an says about jihad?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

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TRANS 2: The jihad that was mentioned in Qur'an, it was about exceptional times, and for self-defense when... when it is under a leader people listen to.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Long time ago, the fighting that they had was not a chaotic one.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Muslims had a country and other... there were other countries, and they were fighting between countries like anywhere.

BM: Do you believe that jihad is going on today in the world?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: What is happening now is more division than jihad. It's groups killing each other, people killing each other. It's not jihad.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: It is not jihad to kill innocent people no matter what.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... So, for somebody to blow up a market, or a

church, or a... it's not jihad.

BM: By going to Chechnya, were you following the teaching of... the teachings in the Qur'an?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: During that time, like I said, Islamic scholars in Yemen kicked out anyone who had extremist ideologies in school. So of course, it was not based on proper teachings. It was based on emotion.

BM: And what was that emotion that drove you?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: 'Cause during that time, I was thinking emotionally. I couldn't bear what was happening to that Chechnyan [sic] people.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: So, I felt at the time that us, as individuals, were able to change reality.

BM: Do you feel the people of Palestine are being oppressed in the same way?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

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TRANS 2: As for the Palestinian people, like I said, it's a problem between countries. There are countries... there are... there is the Security Council, the United Nations. There are people who can mediate to resolve the issues.

DET: **[SPEAKING IN ARABIC]**

TRANS 2: Yeah. So, the problem now is not a problem of individuals. It's a problem of countries.

BM: Do you think it would be proper to go, and fight, and support the Palestinian people?

TRANS 1: **[TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]**

DET: **[SPEAKING IN ARABIC]**

TRANS 2: It is not correct. It's not right. I do not support going to fight anywhere, whether Palestine or not.

DET: **[SPEAKING IN ARABIC]**

TRANS 2: ... There are country... there are countries that have armies and militaries to protect their borders and protect their rights.

DET: **[SPEAKING IN ARABIC]**

TRANS 2: That's what the armies are for.

BM: So, you previously... you previously described why the Taliban were bad. Can you explain why you agreed to go fight for them and their cause?

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TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: That was the way I thought during those days.

This is how I think now.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I didn't think at the time that they were correct hundred percent, but they... they were the best available at the time in that area.

BM: Did you ever consider taking your training and your skills and fight against the Taliban with the Northern Alliance?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I didn't think like that.

BM: You keep saying what you did was wrong. Explain... please, explain again what was wrong? How was it wrong? Why was it wrong?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: There were many mistakes. One of them was that I didn't ask anyone's opinion before I left.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

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TRANS 2: Even though I knew that the scholars we had opposed that ideology. I still didn't ask any of their opinions.

DET: **[SPEAKING IN ARABIC]**

TRANS 2: Also, going to places of conflict and joining extremists groups, even though I was not a member, but I... they were able to benefit from me.

DET: **[SPEAKING IN ARABIC]**

TRANS 2: So, the ideas I had in those days I consider now are wrong.

DET: **[SPEAKING IN ARABIC]**

TRANS 2: Of course, I never thought when I left that I would be part of targeting civilians or harming anyone. My all intent was to go to Chechnya and fight there.

DET: **[SPEAKING IN ARABIC]**

TRANS 2: Just to fight a normal army.

BM: What is your understanding of Shari'a law, and how is that to be implemented?

TRANS 1: **[TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]**

DET: **[SPEAKING IN ARABIC]**

TRANS 2: My ideas about the Shari'a is that every country has a judge and there's a judicial system where they apply the

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laws, and that's their job... well, the individual's jobs.

BM: Well, you... you said that you are now more tolerant and accepting of others.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

BM: Do Shari'a teachings promote this type of tolerant view?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Shari'a never limited or constrained people's dealing with one another. The prophet's time in Medina, there were Christians and Jews, and they all co-existed together.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: So, during the time of the prophet, his shield was pawned with a Jewish merchant, even though there were other Muslims merchants. He didn't choose a Muslim one. He chose a Jew to pawn the shield and get food for his family.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And Jews invited him to their houses and he ate from their food.

(BMs CONFERRING)

PM: Can you tell us a little bit about the business plan



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that you developed?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

TRANS 2: ... Do they have a question, or do... do I talk?

PM: You can talk.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: In my first Board, I found out that having no future plan was one of the problems that caused a negative decision.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: So, I started studying for a proper future.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: So, I studied with one of the Life Skills teachers about small business projects.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I also read some books about that.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And after reading and research, I picked two business projects that can be successful anywhere I go.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: So, I picked opening a store to sell fruits and

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vegetables.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And another... the other project is to open a store to sell fresh juice.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And I found that one of these projects can be successful anywhere I go, whether it's a rich country or a poor country.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: So, I started to start... I decided to start my life with a small business.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: The spread of the health awareness nowadays makes it easier 'cause people now eat more fruits and vegetables. So, it will be easier for that project to succeed.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: My reading in the health and the scientific books had a role in picking those projects.

PM: In the statement I read about you before we started the questioning, it said that you probably hold anti-U.S. sentiments.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

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PM: Why would our reporting indicate that?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I don't know if the translation was correct. I mentioned that I had extremist ideas, but it was... it was not against the United States. I had animosity against Russia. I never left... I never even thought when I... when leaving Yemen that I was going to have any animosity against the United States.

PM: Since you've been in communal living for a while now, when you hear other detainees talking about ISIL, or Daesh, and al-Qaeda, how do you feel about their conversations?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Of course, there is a lot of talking because of the... what's going on in the media, and all the people here, there is a consensus about how wrong ISIS is. They all have their experiences about... the wrongs about al-Qaeda or Taliban, but they all believe that the worst of all is ISIS. There is nothing to justify what they do.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: So, even...

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DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Even to ISIS, we... it's... it's allowed for them to kill us.

PM: Okay, can you say...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Because anyone who is not supporting them, or who opposes them, they are allowed to kill.

PM: When you have a conflict with another detainee, how do you resolve it?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: You will rarely find any problem between me and any of the detainees. During my 15 years here, there was probably 1 problem in 2004 with another detainee, and he was in the wrong.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: But however, some problems may arise and all I do is go to my room and we will make out later.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: There was never physical fighting with anyone.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... Or a problem over food, clothing, or anything.

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DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: The camp administration should have reports about that.

PM: Have you spoken to...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... One, we discuss things we have different opinions about.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: But for it to become a reason for animosity...

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: That doesn't happen, and all the detainees in Guantanamo have my respect and they respect me.

PM: Have you talked to your family about your business plan?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I haven't had any phone call with my family since May 26th.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Because of the situation in Yemen.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: But whenever I spoke with them, they are willing

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to help me wherever I am.

**(BMs CONFERRING)**

BM: During your... for the... let me change that... I appreciate the fact that you have shown greater candor with the Board today. So, I appreciate that.

TRANS 1: **[TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]**

BM: Why were...

DET: **[SPEAKING IN ARABIC]**

BM: ... Why weren't you more candid with the Board during your first hearing?

TRANS 1: **[TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]**

DET: **[SPEAKING IN ARABIC]**

TRANS 2: At that time, I just... have just left the psychiatrist a few days before the Board.

DET: **[SPEAKING IN ARABIC]**

TRANS 2: I was suffering with nervousness and anxiety during that time from the hunger strike. So, my... my mental state was not as good as it is now.

DET: **[SPEAKING IN ARABIC]**

TRANS 2: At the time, I also didn't see that the Board had any benefit.

BM: How could we be assured that your mental state won't

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slip back if you're released and don't have access to psychiatric assistance on a daily basis?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Of course, you... the guarantee is my statement, my family's statements, my... your... my... our... my discussion with you, and you remember from the first Board, I have made a promise to start a new page, and you have seen that I kept my promise. So, I will keep my promise to you now as well.

(BMs CONFERRING)

BM: What is wrong with the Taliban's implementation of Shari'a law?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Taliban are closed-minded toward others, even toward Muslim countries.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Even they are closed-minded toward other Muslim sects.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And even the mus... some Muslim scholars in Afghanistan didn't agree with the Taliban.

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DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: We even heard at the time that Muslim scholars in Afghanistan asked Mula Omar [phonetic spelling] to hand over Usama bin Laden.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: But he didn't take it from a religious point of view. He insisted on his closed-mindedness, and he said, "no."

BM: If Allah Azar University won't renounce the Islamic State, on what basis can you renounce it?

(TRANS 1 CONFERRING WITH BMS)

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: What about it?

TRANS 1: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

BM: ... They will not denounce the Islamic State. So, why does he feel that he can denounce the Islamic State?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I respect everybody's opinion, but it doesn't mean that everything Allah Azar says is correct. There are other muftis like the Islamic scholar of Saudi Arabia. They



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have denounced ISIS.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And all the muftis in the world, they also denounce it.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And per my understanding of Islamic Shari'a, all they do is wrong. There's nothing in Shari'a about killing a child or killing women. All they do is wrong, wrong, wrong.

(BMs CONFERRING)

PM: Yassin, that concludes the questions for you from the Board Members. Your written statement and a transcript of today's hearing may be posted to the Periodic Review Secretariat's website. Do you wish to have these posted; if yes, why, and if no, why not?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: ... I have no problem...

TRANS 1: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Yes, I have no problem.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: I am not afraid of the consequences of my

statements.

PM: Okay. Personal Representative, do you have final questions for Yassin?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR: No, Ma'am.

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: Yassin, do you have anything further you wish to say?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Just that I thank you for allowing me the opportunity once again.

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: And I hope to receive a positive result.

PM: All right, thank you.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

PM: ... Yassin, this concludes your participation in the hearing. The Board will continue in a classified session. Your Personal Representative will remain and will continue to advocate on your behalf.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: The Board will deliberate to determine whether

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continued law of war detention is warranted. You will be advised of the results.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

DET: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

TRANS 2: Thank you very much.

PM: All right. I'd ask that we all stay seated until further instructed by the Case Administrator.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

CA: We will take a 15-minute recess and prepare for the remaining session.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

[The detainee session closed at 1230, 8 November 2016.]

[END OF PAGE]

**ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYM KEY**

BM: BOARD MEMBER

DET: DETAINEE

PM: PRESIDING MEMBER

PR: PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

TRANS 1: TRANSLATOR ONE (LOCATED AT PRS HQ)

TRANS 2: TRANSLATOR TWO (LOCATED AT GUANTANAMO BAY)