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CA: This Periodic Review Board is being conducted at 0910 hours on 24 May 2016, with regard to the following detainee: Said bin Brahim bin Umran Bakush, ISN 685.

As a reminder, the unclassified portion 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;**

**THE 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;**

**THE DETAINEE; AND,**

**SECURITY OFFICER.**

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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 and the detainee waived translation of the unclassified summary and Personal Representatives' opening statement. These documents have been posted to the Periodic Review Secretariat website. This session is being observed by foreign, national and local media; and Representatives from Non-Governmental Organizations.

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

PM: Good morning. This Board is convened to determine whether continued law of war detention is warranted for Said bin Brahim bin Umran Bakush, ISN 685, to protect against a continuing significant threat to the security of the United States. From here forward, we'll refer to the detainee as Said... oh and this session is unclassified.

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

PM: Said, this is your Periodic Review Board to determine whether continued law of war detention is warranted in your case. Continued law of war detention will be warranted if it's 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

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may pose to the United States and in... 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 this process, and finally, the translators ensure that everybody understands your statements and that you understand what is being said during the hearing.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: Personal Representatives, has Said had an opportunity to review the unclassified summary?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR 1: Yes, Ma'am.

PM: All right. Thank you.

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF PR's ANSWER ABOVE]

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

Said bin Brahim bin Umran Bakush, ISN 685 was a trusted associate of prominent al-Qaeda facilitator Abu Zubaydah, ISN 10016 and al-Qaeda trainer Ibn al-Shaykh al-Libi, ISN 212. We assess that in the late 1990s, Said traveled to Afghanistan, where he attended basic and advanced training and later served as an instructor at an extremist camp. Said was captured at a safe house with Zubaydah in

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March 2002. Safe house members were training for future attacks, including against U.S. interests.

Said has committed a low number of disciplinary infractions compared to other detainees and the majority of his infractions have been failures to comply with Guantanamo guard force orders. Said has assaulted or attempted to assault guard forces and other detainees on occasions, including in February 2015 incident in which he struck another detainee.

Said never admitted to involvement in extremist activities. Because Said has consistently denied involvement in terrorist activities and has provided conflicting information to interrogators, we lacked insight... we lack insight into what motivated his actions before detention and whether he would pursue extremist activity after detention. Said has not expressed or demonstrated any sympathy or support for al-Qaeda, its global jihadist ideology, or radical Islamic views. He has not shown a strong interest in his release, but when asked, he said that it would be okay if he went to a Western country. After lying about his nationality for two years, Said noted that he did not want to return to Algeria because he feared authorities would immediately arrest him. He indicated to interrogators that he has held a num... a variety of menial jobs, and could return to such employment if resettled.

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Algeria has advanced counterterrorism capabilities and is committed to working with the United States on terrorism and sharing information with the United States. Al-Qaeda in Maghreb and ISIL's official branch in Algeria have been forced into remote areas of the country by counterterrorism pressure, but remain capable of conducting attacks. We have no reporting that either terrorist group has attracted any of the Guantanamo detainees that were transferred to Algeria.

Aside from communications with legal counsel, Said has not had any contact with anyone outside of Guantanamo. Said provided his parents' address and family member names to interrogators, although this information cannot be verified.

PM: Personal Representatives, do you wish to make an unclassified opening statement, at this time?

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

DET: No, Ma'am.

PR 1: Yes, Ma'am.

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

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TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR 1: Yes, Ma'am.

PM: All right. Personal Representatives, please proceed.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR 2: Good morning ladies and gentlemen of the Board. We are the Personal Representatives for ISN 685, Mr. Said Bakush. We will be assisting Mr. Bakush with his case this morning.

Said has been overjoyed and eager to participate in the Periodic Review process since we first met with him 16 March 2016. When we explained why we were meeting with Said, he mentioned his fellow detainees had talked about their initial meetings with PRs. This filled him with cautious optimism about his own forthcoming meetings with us, his PRs. Said has maintained a positive attitude throughout all of our meetings.

Throughout our meetings, Said has... has expressed his desire to be transferred from Guantanamo Bay. He is open to transfer to any country, which will be helpful considering Said also speaks a regional dialect of French from North Africa, as well as Arabic. He is willing to participate in any rehabilitation or reintegration program as well. Said looks forward to life after his transfer from Guantanamo Bay, meeting a woman to be his future wife, and starting a family together... together with her. He also hopes at some point in

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the future to return to his birthplace to reconnect with his siblings' families and other relatives. Said did not have one career path prior to his detention. Though his formal education ended at third grade, he worked many seasonal part-time jobs ranging from restaurant server, construction welder, vineyard harvester, and baking regional traditional breads and desserts. Said has also served a two-year enlistment in the Algerian military upon reaching adulthood. During his time here at Guantanamo Bay, Said realized, once transferred, he could start a thriving career in driving long-haul trucks and operating or managing a small trucking business delivering food and products to other regional businesses and restaurants. This plan will build upon truck driving training he learned as an enlisted soldier in the Algeria military. His prior part-time job experiences give him an advantage in terms of understanding what seasonal products to prioritize at his future trucking business and will help him find employment regardless of where he is transferred.

Said has been a quiet, compliant detainee earning the respect of his fellow detainees and detention facility staff. By being exposed to so many people of various cultural and religious backgrounds here at Guan... at Guantanamo Bay, Said has had many opportunities to better understand and appreciate their beliefs and customs. This exposure

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to other nations' peoples, cultures and religious faiths will serve him well wherever he is transferred.

We are confident that Said's desire to pursue a peaceful way of life if transferred from Guantanamo Bay is genuine and that he does not harbor negativity towards anyone. We re... we remain convinced that Said does not pose a significant threat to security of the United States or any of its interests.

Thank you for your time and attention, and we look forward to answering any questions you may have during this Board.

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

**(NON-VERBAL RESPONSE FROM BMs)**

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

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

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

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

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

**[The public session closed at 0934, 24 May 2016.]**



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ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYM KEY

BM: BOARD MEMBER  
CA: CASE ADMINISTRATOR  
DET: DETAINEE  
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)