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CA: This Periodic Review Board is being conducted at 0911 hours on 21 June 2016, with regards to the following detainee: Ravil Mingazov, ISN 702.

As a reminder, the unclassified portions of these proceedings are being recorded for the purpose of generating a transcript to be posted on the PRS website.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

CA: Representatives from the following agencies are present and are members of the Board:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE;

DEPARTMENT OF STATE;

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE;

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY;

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE; AND,

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF.

The following personnel are also present:

LEGAL ADVISOR TO THE BOARD;

CASE ADMINISTRATORS;

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE;

PRIVATE COUNSEL;

TWO TRANSLATORS;

THE DETAINEE; AND,

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SECURITY OFFICER.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

CA: The detainee's Personal Representative, Private Counsel, the detainee, and one translator are located at the detention facility, U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. They are attending via video teleconference, and the detainee waived translation of the unclassified summary and Personal Representative's and Private Counsel's opening statements. These documents have been posted to the Periodic Review Secretariat website. This session is being observed by foreign, national, and local media; foreign government officials; 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 Ravil Mingazov, ISN 702, to protect against a continuing significant threat to the security of the United States. From here forward, we'll refer to the detainee as Ravil.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: I should mention, too, that this session of the hearing is unclassified.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

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PM: Ravil, 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... is... will be warranted if it is necessary to protect against a continuing significant threat to the national security of the United States. The focus of this hearing is on the threat you may pose to the United States and its interests, if transferred or released from U.S. custody. It is not on the lawfulness of your detention.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: The Personal Representatives [sic] and Private Counsel are your representatives to assist you during this process. Finally, the translators are here to ensure that everybody understands your statements and that you understand what is being said during the hearing.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: Personal Representative, Private Counsel, has the de... has Ravil had an opportunity to review the unclassified summary?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR: Yes, Ma'am.

PC: Yes.

PM: All right. Thank you. I'll read the unclassified summary: Ravil Mingazov, ISN 702, is an ethnic Tatar from Russia with

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ties to the al-Qaeda-affiliated Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan and a group called Tatar Jama'at. Ravil served in the Russian military as a logistics warrant officer from 1989 to 2000, when he resigned over what he characterized as the Russian government's poor treatment of Muslims. His feelings on the subject likely led him to seek out extremist groups. Ravil probably joined the IMU, Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, and trained in Tajikistan until early 2001, when the group was forced to leave and collectively traveled to Afghanistan. By mid-2001, Ravil had probably joined Tatar Jama'at group, which took a strong position against Russia's policies towards Muslims.

In mid-2001, Ravil probably attended several training camps in Afghanistan where he learned to make explosives, poisons, and chemical grenades. Ravil has admitted to fighting with the Taliban against the Northern Alliance, but said he did not fight against Americans. Due to his inability to communicate in any language other than Russian, he probably did not hold any positions of authority in Afghanistan. Ravil fled to Pakistan in January 2002, where he stayed at a series of al-Qaeda affiliated safe houses, making his way to Faisalabad, where he was arrested at a safe house associated with senior al-Qaeda facilitator Abu Zubaydah. Based on information following his arrest, he was known to have some experience in dealing

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with different types of explosives. We have no information from other detainee... other detainees on Ravil's pre-detention activities.

Ravil has been mostly compliant with the guard force at Guantanamo, with a relatively low number of infractions compared to other detainees, according to Joint Task Force-Guantanamo reporting. Despite being open with interviewers about his time in Russia, Ravil has provided few and contradictory details about his time in Afghanistan and the circumstances that led to his arrest in an al-Qaeda affiliated safe house.

Ravil maintains a strong disdain for the Russian government and does not want to be repatriated, claiming his treatment in Guantanamo is better than the treatment he received in Russia. He probably also fears facing criminal charges that the Russian government has levied against him. If transferred back to Russia and not charged with a crime, Ravil would probably live with his mother in Tatarastan [sic] until he becomes self-sufficient, and then seeks to leave Russia. Although he does not have any direct connections to known terrorists at large, Ravil's attitude towards the Russian government could lead him to seek out individuals with a similar mindset, and he has discussed returning to fight against Russia.

Do the Personal Representative and Private Counsel wish to make unclassified opening statements at this time?

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TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR: Yes, Ma'am.

PC: Yes, Ma'am.

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

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR: Yes, Ma'am.

PC: Yes.

PM: All right. Personal Representative, please proceed.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen of the Board. As the Personal Representative for Ravil Mingazov, I would like to thank the Board for allowing me this opportunity to demonstrate how Ravil is no longer a continuing significant threat to the United States.

Ravil is a Russian Tartar [sic], a religious and ethnic minority group from the Tartarstan [sic] region of Russia. He grew up in a loving family and led an active life, ultimately becoming a professional-level ballet dancer prior to being conscripted into the Russian military like most young men. During his time in the ru... in

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the Russian military, Ravil never trained for combat duty. Actually, his first two years of service were part of the military ballet troupe. Following this, he served in support roles performing passport control on the border with Mongolia and then managing all food, logistics, and cooking for an entire base.

During Ravil's time in the mil... Russian military, he became increasingly bothered that he was not allowed to observe basic tenets of the Islamic faith while on duty, such as pray or eat halal food. His attempt to peacefully engage military and civilian political leadership on this issue started a chain of events that eventually drove him to leave Russia and seek an Islamic country where he and his family could more freely practice their religion. While traveling from Russia to Tajikistan, his young son became very ill, so his wife was forced to return to Russia with their son to seek medical care. The Tajikistan government eventually relocated Ravil and many other foreigners out of the country, leading to his arrival in Afghanistan. Ravil never fit in with any group due to suspicion of his Russian background. He survivor... he survived by performing menial tasks and moving often. Following the onset of coalition operations, he joined the waves of people fleeing Afghanistan, eventually crossing into Pakistan where he was detained at a guest house.

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While at Guantanamo, Ravil has been a compliant detainee who has never taken part in any non-religious fasting, even when most other detainees participated. Ravil took numerous classes in Life Skills, Arabic, Computer, Calligraphy, and Art. Despite the language barrier with other detainees, Ravil developed close friendships at Guantanamo, due in large part to his calm, friendly demeanor. Ravil desperately wants to re-connect with his only son, now a teenager with no memory of his father prior to detention. Ravil's son, ex-wife and other in-laws currently live in the United Kingdom under political asylum and have written numerous letters pledging to support Ravil upon his release. Ravil holds no grudges against the United States and, in fact, greatly admires the religious freedom that America offers. Ravil is prepared to answer all your questions truthfully and respectfully in order to demonstrate he is not a continuing significant threat to the United States. Thank you.

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

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PC: Members of the Periodic Review Board, thank you for accepting this statement from me as Personal Counsel [sic] in this PRB hearing for Guantanamo detainee Ravil Mingazov. I am a private, pro bono attorney from the law firm of Reed Smith, Washington, D.C.,

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where I serve as the D.C. office managing partner. I've been practicing law for 26 years, always with time for pro bono cases of many kinds. In 2005, my firm accepted several detainee representations for their respective habeas corpus cases. At the time, a former Marine officer, Doug Spaulding, and Army officer, Bernie Casey, took the cases and I was pleased to join them. Since 2007, I have traveled to Guantanamo many times and spent many days meeting with Ravil. With Doug and Bernie now retired, I have become the lead counsel, including as PC in this hearing.

I fully understand and appreciate the issue being considered by this panel, whether Ravil, if released, would be a threat to anyone, taking into account security measures by the receiving country. My background allowing me to comment on this matter includes my in-person meetings with Ravil over the last ten years, letters exchanged, and also calls, Skype, and letters with Ravil's mother, former wife, and son. I'm also very familiar with all the evidence concerning Ravil, including as presented in... in his habeas case, which is presently still active on appeal by the government, although I do not comment on any of the evidence or allegations from those proceedings.

Please appreciate that I have thought and reflected long and hard on the issue over the course of many years, and mo... most

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recently, during my usual ultra-long-distance running. This is my considered conclusion: I believe and I know Ravil to be a kind and peaceful man who, if released, will do no harm to anyone. He will live the rest of his days as a devout and peaceful Muslim; a loving father and family member; a good son to his mother for her remaining days; a cheerful friend to all around him; a physically and mentally healthy person; and a productive employee in any number of jobs that he would eagerly take.

Ravil's son and other family members now residing in Nottingham, England would receive Ravil with open arms assuming, we hope, the United Kingdom, sees fit to accept an asylum petition. They will give him a bed and use of an apartment, feed him, care for him, help him with transition, and help him find gainful employment. The United Kingdom, of course, would provide the highest levels of security assurances.

With respect to Ravil and his peacefulness, I have come to these conclusions because I have observed his character over many years. Ravil has always greeted us, first and foremost, as his friends. He has never been impatient or hostile with us personally in any way. On the contrary, almost without exception, Ravil has always been kind, cheerful, and humorous, something that is extraordinary to us given his long imprisonment. More, I have never heard Ravil lash out

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or say anything negative or threatening about anyone, not about any guard, officer, fellow detainee, any American leader, or anyone. When discussing Russian politics, Ravil does so with a keen and deep understanding of the issues, history, and a respect for the struggles of ethnic people who simply want to live and worship in peace. We have spent much time in excellent conversation about history, leaders, philosophy, literature, and other topics. And we also talk at great length about our families, friends, and the simple things of life, the interesting animals and creatures of Guantanamo, the pleasant weather, our mutual like of running and exercising, and our hopes and dreams for the future.

For sure, over the years, we have reviewed, and re-reviewed, every last detail about his past, his whereabouts in 2000 to 2002, the conditions at GTMO, and the end... endless labyrinth of his never-ending habeas case in court. Discussing the court ca... case gets tedious, and so we mostly simply talk as friends, increasingly so as the years go by. This is also the case with our longtime translator and all the other counsel Ravil has befriended over the years, especially Doug Spaulding, who has spent the most time with Ravil. So it is not surprising that so many people- family, friends, counsel, and fellow detainees- have taken the time to write such positive statements about Ravil. I hope that these statements taken

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as a whole, along with Ravil's statement, will convince you that the PRB clearance standard in this case is well satisfied. Thank you very much.

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: No questions. This concludes this portion of the hearing. I'd ask that we remain seated until further instructed by our Case Administrator.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

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

[The public session closed at 0930, 21 June 2016.]

[END OF PAGE]

ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYM KEY

BM: BOARD MEMBER

CA: CASE ADMINISTRATOR

DET: DETAINEE

PM: PRESIDING MEMBER

PR: PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

PC: PRIVATE COUNSEL

TRANS 1: TRANSLATOR ONE (LOCATED AT PRS HQ)

TRANS 2: TRANSLATOR TWO (LOCATED AT GUANTANAMO BAY)