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CA: This Periodic Review Board is being conducted at 0908 hours on 14 July 2016, with regards to the following detainee: Ismael Ali Faraj Ali Bakush, ISN 708.

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;

TWO TRANSLATORS;

THE DETAINEE; AND,

SECURITY OFFICER.

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

CA: The detainee's Personal Representative, 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 the Personal Representative's opening statement. These documents have been posted to the Periodic Review Secretariat website. This session is being observed by national 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 Ismael Ali al... Ali Faraj al... Ali Bakush, ISN 708, to protect against a continuing significant threat to the security of the United States. From here forward, we'll refer to the detainee as Ismael. Oh, this section of the hearing is unclassified.

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

PM: Ismael, 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... national security of the United States. The focus of this hearing is

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on the threat you may pose to 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: Personal Representative is your representative to assist you during this process. Finally, the translators ensure that everyone understands your statements and that you understand what is being said during the hearing.

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

PM: Personal Representative, has the... has Ismael had an opportunity to review the unclassified summary?

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

PR: Yes, Ma'am.

TRANS 2: **[TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]**

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

Ismael Ali Faraj Ali Bakush, ISN 708, was a Libyan Islamic Fighting Group explosives expert who trained al-Qaeda members and probably associated with and provided operational support to key al-Qaeda figures. He has consistently denied his close association with al-Qaeda and expertise with explosives, and he has presented himself to U.S. interrogators as a low-level fighter.

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Ismael joined the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group and he probably was in Afghanistan from 1991 to 1994 and again starting in 1998. While a member of that group, he almost certainly plotted to kill Libyan leader, Omar Gadhafi... excuse me, mohamma... Mohammed Gadhafi [sic]. In Afghanistan, he developed a close relationship with several al-Qaeda leaders and provided explosives training to Libyan Islamic Fighting Group and al-Qaeda operatives, including some who later conducted attacks in Kuwait and Morocco. Ismael fled in early 2002 to Pakistan, where he probably helped al-Qaeda and Libyan Islamic Fighting Group members plan external operations and communicated regularly with prominent al-Qaeda figures, including possibly Abu Zubaydah and probably senior al-Qaeda leada [sic] Abu Faraj al-Libi. Pakistani authorities captured Ismael in April 2002.

Ismael has been compliant but uncooperative during his detention at Guantanamo Bay, providing little information of value while outlasting a series of interrogators. He attended interviews regularly until September 2015, but has avoided discussing his ties to al-Qaeda, which suggests he wishes to pass his detention in relative comfort and anonymity, confident that the extent of his extremist activity remains unknown to U.S. officials. He has told interrogators that he is not interested in fighting again, but has not renounced extremism. He's expressed frustration over the current

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civil war in Libya, blaming Egypt and claiming General Haftar is a new... new dictator like Qadhafi, suggesting he may be motivated to violence if he returned to Libya. Ismael has not expressed a clear plan for how he would support himself if he left Guantanamo Bay. He would probably struggle to acclimate to civilian life without substantial assistance.

Ismael's longstanding efforts to conceal the extent of his terrorist activities, as well as his lack of viable avenues of support to support himself, suggests that he would like... he would be likely to reengage in terrorist activity if he were not fully rehabilitated and provided substantial reintegration assistance. Extremist groups probably would find his experience as an explosives and as electronics expert and trainer for the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group valuable. Ismael has ties to several prominent extremists in Libya.

Does the Personal Representative wish to make unclassified opening statement, at this time?

PR: Yes, Ma'am.

PM: All right. I'd like to remind all participants that any information shared at this time, must be unclassified. There's concern with classification of the information, I'll indicate as such and will stop the proceedings until we resolve the issue. Has Ismael had an opportunity to review your statements **[sic]**?

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PR: Yes, Ma'am.

PM: Sorry. We'll go for the... the translation. Go ahead.

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

PR: Yes, Ma'am.

(CA ASSISTING TRANS 1 WITH SCRIPT)

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

(TRANS 2 CONFERRING WITH DET)

PM: Okay. Person...

PR: ... Yes, Ma'am.

PM: Thank you. Personal Representative, please proceed.

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

PR: Members of the Board, I am the pa... Personal Representative for Ismael Ali Farooj al-Bakush **[sic]**, ISN 708. I will be representing this case this morning. First off, let me start by stating that Ismael is pleased to have the opportunity to have his case heard, to tell his story, and to answer your questions in detail. Additionally, Ismael has been cooperative and receptive while meeting with me.

As a result of our meetings, I can surely say that Ismael is eager and excited to begin a new chapter in his life. Ismael wishes only to move forward and to put his past behind him. As an example, Ismael has learned to be more opened minded, tolerant, and accepting

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of others while living in a communal living setting. Ismael believes that his communal living arrangement allows him more opportunities to gain exposure for himself, to other detainees' cultural and religious backgrounds. As a result, Ismael now respects and values the opinions of others from various cultural backgrounds.

Ismael has been compliant and only wishes all others well. He enjoys the company of others and would not jeopardize the opportunities that this brings to share life experiences with other detainees. Ismael routinely partakes in gatherings where he and others are able to share stories of their childhood.

Unfortunately, I was not able to contact his family, but understand from our discussions that his mother has had... has properties that would enable her to offer Ismael financial support. His cousin is employed and is also willing to help Ismael financially.

Ismael enjoys watching and playing many sports such as soccer and swimming. While at Guantanamo Bay, Ismael has taken classes in health and life skills classes. Ismael also enjoys cooking for others and as a result, Ismael would like to work in the restaurant industry. Ismael looks forward to having his own family someday, and particularly looks forward to raising children of his own.

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I am confident that Ismael's desire to pursue a peaceful and productive life is sincere. His demeanor is one of an individual that has learned from his mistakes and actions of the past. He is willing to concentrate on a bright and meaningful future. While Ismael prefers to live in an Arabic speaking country, he is willing to relocate to a country that provides him opportunities for a successful future. Ismael is willing to participate in a rehabilitation or reintegration program as well.

Ismael and I appreciate your time in this matter and your consideration for a transfer recommendation.

PM: Board Members may reserve questions until the 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 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]**

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[The public session closed at 0921, 14 July 2016.]

[END OF PAGE]

ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYM KEY

BM: BOARD MEMBER
CA: CASE ADMINISTRATOR
DET: DETAINEE
PM: PRESIDING MEMBER
PR: PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
TRANS 1: TRANSLATOR ONE (LOCATED AT PRS HQ)
TRANS 2: TRANSLATOR TWO (LOCATED AT GUANTANAMO BAY)