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CA: This Periodic Review Board is being conducted at 1222 hours on 16 February 2016, with regard to the following detainee: Ayub Murshid Ali Salih, ISN 836.

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 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 detainee... detention facility, U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. They are attending via video teleconference. This session is being observed by representatives from non-governmental organizations.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: Good morning... or good afternoon. Thank you to everybody for... for persevering through the weather and through the technical challenges today. To start, does the detainee wish to waive translation of the entire hearing, including all written statements provided by the personal representative and himself?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR 1: No, ma'am. The detainee only wishes to waive translation of the unclassified summary and Personal Representative opening statement.

PM: Okay, thank you. In that case, the Board is called to order. The Board is convened to determine whether continued law of war detention is warranted for Ayub Murshud.. Murshid Ali Salih, ISN 836, in order to protect against a continuing significant threat to the security of the United States. From here on forward, we will

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refer to the detainee as Ayyub. This hearing is uncl... this portion of the hearing is unclassified.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: Ayyub, this is your Periodic Review Board to det... your Board hearing to determine whether continued law of war detention is warranted for your case. Continued law of war detention 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 you are 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 the process. And 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 Representatives, has the detainee had an opportunity to review the unclassified statement?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR 1&2: Yes, ma'am.

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PM: All right, thank you. I'll read the unclassified summary.

Ayyub was a low ranking Yemeni militant who we assess trained in Afghanistan before 9/11 and subsequently met with senior al-Qaeda figures in Pakistan. Ayyub is one of the Yemenis arrested during the 11 September 2002 raids in Karachi, Pakistan later labelled as the "Karachi Six" based on concerns that they were part of an al-Qaeda operational cell intended to support a future attack. Based on our review of all available reporting, we judge that this label more accurately reflects the common circumstances of their arrest and that it is more likely the six Yemenis were elements of a large pool of Yemeni fighters that senior al-Qaeda planners considered potentially available to support future operations.

Our review of available intelligence indicates that he probably did not play a major role in terrorist operations, leading us to disagree with previous U.S. government assessments that he was involved in a 2002 plot to conduct an attack in Karachi, Pakistan.

Ayyub traveled from Yemen to Afghanistan in mid-2000, where he probably was trained in military tactics at al-Qaeda's al-Farouq camp. After 9/11, he tried to return to Yemen by traveling through Pakistan to Iran. An Iranian crackdown on suspected al-Qaeda associates, however, probably prompted him to return to Pakistan

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where Pakistani authorities arrested him at an al-Qaeda safehouse in Karachi in September 2002.

Much of our knowledge about Ayyub's background is derived from his own statements, which have varied over time. His claims have been only partially corroborated but are consistent with other detainees' accounts of their own travel and training.

Our most credible information about the Karachi plot makes no mention of Ayyub and states that al-Qaeda planned to recruit Pakistanis to carry out the attack. In addition, several other detainees have reported that Ayyub was waiting to travel to Yemen when he was captured rather than involved in attack planning.

Ayyub probably retains extremist views, but has not said whether he intends to reengage in terrorist activities. He has had a poor compliance record at the Guantanamo Bay Detention Facility, including numerous incidents of assaulting or threatening to assault guards. His behavior has improved since 2013, however, possibly because he now views compliance as a way to increase the likelihood of his transfer. Ayyub has provided little information of value, has given contradictory accounts of his background; at one point, completely recanting his previous statements, and has not been responsive to interrogation since 2004.

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Ayyub has no known associates with at-large extremists and has offered little insight to his post-detention plans apart from expressing his hope of reuniting with his family. He has negative views of both the Yemeni government and the Houthis, suggesting that he would find common cause with extremist groups in and around Yemen if he sought to reengage. Given political instability in Yemen, it is unlikely that authorities there would be able to monitor him adequately if he were to return to his hometown, where there is a heavy Houthi presence. We do not know whether his family, which has been... which has suffered financially during the Houthi occupation, would be able to aid in his reintegration.

PM: Do the Personal Representatives wish to make an unclassified opening statement?

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

PR 1: Yes, ma'am.

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

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

PR 1: Yes, ma'am.

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PM: Okay, please proceed.

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

PR 2: Members of the Board, we are the Personal Representatives for Ayyub Murshid Ali Salih. Ayyub was extremely happy when we made our initial visit to notify him about the Periodic Review Board process. He realized this review process provides him the best opportunity to leave Guantanamo and become a free man. He also recognized that in order to get the Board's recommendation for transfer, he must answer your questions truthfully and honestly. Ayyub is here and ready for your questions.

Ayyub admitted that he has made mistakes in his past, to include transgressions with the guards at a time when most of the camp was on a hunger strike. However, many things have changed since that time, and he has a new outlook on life. He hopes that his transfer from Guantanamo will make up for the lost years of his life. Ayyub dreams to find a wife and start a family of his own where he can be contributing member of society, avoid any political problems, and enjoy living in a society that's acceptable of people from diverse cultures and different religions. So, he is willing to be transferred to any country to get on with his life.

Ayyub has experience as a shopkeeper, having worked in his family's store when he was growing up. After securing a job, he

would like to return to college and study business administration, work on his communication skills and gain some computer proficiency to help ensure his success. Additionally, his family is able to provide financial assistance during his transition to freedom, and they are willing to provide the support he will need to live a normal life with a wife and children.

Ayyub has not expressed any ill will or anger about his detention at Guantanamo. He has denounced terrorist acts and organizations that claim to base those acts upon religion. Ayyub wants to make it perfectly clear to the Board that he is not a threat to the United States or any other country.

PM: Thank you. Board Members may reserve questions until the detainee and witness statements have been presented in their entirety, but does any Board Member have a question during the unclassified session?

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

[No verbal response from the members.]

PM: All right with no questions, this concludes this portion of the hearing. I'd ask that everyone 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.

PM: And if everybody's okay, you want to just take a 10 minute session so we just keep mov... keep moving?

[The public session closed at 1237, 16 February 2016.]

[END OF PAGE]

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)