

**PERIODIC REVIEW BOARD FULL HEARING, 15 DEC 2016**  
**UTHMAN ABD AL-RAHIM MUHAMMAD UTHMAN, ISN 027**  
**PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OPENING STATEMENT**

Members of the Board, I am the Personal Representative for Uthman Abd Al-Rahim Muhammad Uthman. I have known him for over a year acting as his PR. He has worked to address the issues listed from both the final determination and the compendium. He has every intention to be forthright with the board. He has worked hard to attend classes and regularly answers me in English during our meetings. While he has not mastered English, he is studying it along with other classes such as Art to improve his skill set so that he can prepare for his future.

As we prepared for this board, I realize his biggest fear was how his past would scar the view his family may have about him. But, he knows that in order to be able to create a future, he must account for his past behavior. Today, he will tell you that past candidly but also show you he is no longer the same person.

Uthman is a very cordial and friendly person, which has been evident during all of our meetings. He comes across as if he is saddened by the years spent here. When you speak with him, time seems to have stood still. His responses flow over years unlike thinking in the here and now. I had to learn this by meeting with him over the last year. I would ask how he felt about something and his answer would be his feelings from thirteen years ago. But, if a person repeats the same routine for fourteen years in addition to having a different aspect of time due to his cultural background, I can understand how this could happen. Therefore, I have learned to ask questions being specific to include time lines.

Uthman's family is ready and willing to support him as indicated in the letters supplied by his family. He has put a lot of thought into a business plan that can be conducted in any country as everyone loves ice cream. He is eager to work with other cultures. While he wants to go to an Arabic culture, this is not because he has any underlying ulterior motive. It would just be easier to assimilate. I too would want to go to a culture that speaks English if I was relocating. But, he will go anywhere happily. He has no intentions to re-engage. While the compendium mentions if he returns to Yemen there are avenues for him to re-engage, he is not returning to Yemen, let alone any plans to re-engage. He just wants to begin his life and see his family.

He is here to answer your questions and then you can decide if he constitutes a significant threat to the United States. I do not believe he is. Thank you for your time.