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CA: This Periodic Review Board is being conducted at 0914 hours on 15 December 2016, with regard to the following detainee: Uthman Abdul [sic] al-Ramin [sic] Muhammad Uthman, ISN 027.

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,  
THE OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF.

The following personnel are also present:

LEGAL ADVISOR TO THE BOARD;  
CASE ADMINISTRATORS;  
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE;  
TWO TRANSLATORS;  
THE DETAINEE; AND,

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THE SECURITY OFFICER.

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 vidia... via video teleconference and the detainee waived translation of the unclassified summary and Personal Representative's statements. This session is being observed by foreign, national, and local media; representatives from non-governmental associations [sic].

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: Good morning. This Board is convened to determine whether continued law of war detention is warranted for Uthman Abdul [sic] Rahim Muhammad Uthman, ISN 027, to protect against a continuing significant threat to the security of the United States. From here forward, we'll refer to the detainee as Uthman. This session of the hearing is unclass... unclassified.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: Uthman, 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 national security of the United States. The focus

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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 Representative is your representative to assist you during this process. 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 Representative, has Uthman 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.  
Uthman Abdul [sic] Rahim Muhammad Uthman, ISN 027, left Yemen to participate in jihad in Afghanistan and later became a bodyguard for Usama bin Laden. He fought at Tora Bora against probable coa... Coalition Forces and was detained in December twa... 2001 while trying to flee to Pakistan. During his detention at Guantanamo, Uthman has been highly compliant with the guard force, although he has been mostly uncooperative with interviews and provided little information of value, never admitting to

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being part of al-Qaeda or being a bin Laden bodyguard. Uthman probably remains sympathetic to extremist cases, and we judge that some of his Yemen-based family members are also involved in or sympathetic to extremist activities, offering him a potential path to reengage, should he choose to do so.

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

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR: Yes, Ma'am.

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

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

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR: Yes, Ma'am.

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: All right. Please, proceed.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR: Members of the Board, I am the Personal Representative for Uthman Abd al-Rahim Muhammad Uthman. I have known him for

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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 he prepared for this board, I realize his biggest fear was how his past would scar the view his family may have had 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 him how he felt about something and his answers would be his feelings from 13 years ago; but, if a person repeats the same routine for 14 years in addition to having a different aspect of time due to

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his cultural background, I can see 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 ducted... conducted in any country as everyone loves ice cream. He is eager to work with the other cultures. While he wants to go to an Arabic culture, this is not because he has any underlying ulterior motive. It is just easier to be assimilated.. um.. it is.. um.. while he wants to go to Arabic culture, it's not because he has an underlying ulterior motive. It would just be easier to assimilate. I would want to go to a culture that speaks English if I were relocating, but while he will go anywhere happily. He has to... 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 has 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 does. Thank you for your time.

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

(NON-VERBAL RESPONSE FROM BMS)

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: With no questions, this concludes this portion of the hearing. I'd ask that we all stay 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 0924, 15 December 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)