

PERIODIC REVIEW BOARD FULL REVIEW, 10 DEC 2019
UTHMAN ABD AL-RAHIM MUHAMMAD UTHMAN, ISN 27
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE STATEMENT

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen of the Board.

Thank you for this opportunity to appear before you on behalf of Uthman Abd Al Rahim Muhammad Uthman. We are here today to answer your questions about the past, present and future, in a bid to secure your approval for his release/repatriation. I have been Uthman's Personal Representative for approximately 2 years, during this time he has never missed a meeting with me or failed to cooperate fully in the PRB process. Despite advise from legal professionals, and fellow detainees, Uthman has written about his past and is fully prepared to discuss it with you today. Uthman does not sugarcoat his activities or his reasons for traveling to Afghanistan, he thought he was doing his Islamic and humanitarian duty and protecting those under attack.

Uthman was not candid during his first board appearance due to fear, language barriers, bad advice, and a general lack of trust or understanding. During his second, and all subsequent appearances, Uthman has been candid and contrite. In addition to answering your questions today, Uthman will speak to how his mindset and beliefs have changed during his time in detainment and what his hopes and plans are for the future.

Uthman has demonstrated that he is open minded and willing to change. Prior to detention, Uthman had no dealing with females and had little interaction with people of other cultures or religions. While in Guantanamo, Uthman has had the opportunity to interact with numerous detainees, male and female guards, medical staff, legal representatives and several personal representatives. These personal interactions along with television, movies, news media, etc. have all broadened Uthman's outlook and opened a whole new world to him.

Uthman has taken this Board's advice and tried to make the most of his time in GTMO. He attends classes, he has taken up painting and sculpting and he has remained one of the most compliant detainees in GTMO. He told me that once he decided to tell the Board the truth, it felt like a weight was lifted and he lost that feeling of hopelessness. He has admitted his past mistakes, taken responsibility and expressed his remorse. He has matured and realized that people will lie and use you for their own agenda, even under the guise of religion. This was a hard lesson for him to learn, but one that he will not likely forget or repeat. He stands firm in his denial that he was a bodyguard for Usama Bin Ladin or a member of Al Qa'ida. We have enclosed two statements from current detainees (ISN 1453 and 1457) stating that they misidentified Uthman while under duress or enhanced interrogation. We present these to show a reasonable doubt and a possibility that these accusations are not factual.

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Uthman has an idea for a small business (food truck) to support himself upon his release. Reprieve has offered support through their Life After Guantanamo Program. Uthman's family in Yemen and those in Saudi Arabia have committed to support him both financially and emotionally. Uthman knows that he will be lucky to be given a new start and a chance to build a future free from war and unrest and he is willing to go anywhere and agree to any terms this Board deems necessary. He has shown no ill-will or anti- American sentiments during my time with him. He remains positive and hopeful about the future. He is cheerful and pleasant and tries to see the silver lining in all situations. I believe that Uthman is a good candidate for release as he no longer poses a threat to the safety and security of the United States.

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