

PERIODIC REVIEW BOARD FULL REVIEW, 06 DEC 2016  
**MOHAMMED AL-ANSI, ISN 029**  
PRIVATE COUNSEL STATEMENT

Good morning. My name is Beth Jacob and I am the private counsel for Muhammad al Ansi.

I am a partner with Kelley Drye & Warren, a national law firm, where I represent generic pharmaceutical companies. Before joining Kelley Drye & Warren, I represented the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey in litigation arising out of the attacks of September 11, 2001, and represented victims of those attacks in obtaining compensation. Earlier in my career, I was an assistant district attorney in New York City, prosecuting fraud and official corruption.

I have represented Mr. al Ansi shortly after the Board's decision on the initial review; I was not his lawyer at the time of the previous board hearing. I have met and spoken with Mr. al Ansi numerous times in the past year, and also read some of his earlier letters and the files of his case. He has been open with and respectful of me in all of our interactions.

At our first meeting, Mr. al Ansi paid me the compliment of bringing a selection of his paintings where he has learned art through classes at Guantanamo. We spent the first hour discussing his artwork. After several meetings, he trusted me with his originals, and I showed them to an artist who lives and works in New York City. She was struck by his ability and innate talent, as she has written in her letter to this Board.

Both this artist and Reprieve pointed out that Mr. al Ansi's art will stand him in good stead if he is deemed transferrable. First, it will give him something to do and a means of expression, in the first days and weeks after his transfer. Second, he will be part of the community of artists, which will provide stability and social contacts. Third, there is the possibility of earnings from his art. But Mr. al Ansi is planning for more practical ways to make a living – he told me he would like a construction job, and among the many classes that he is taking here at GTMO is one about small business.

Two other major factors are important for evaluating the man Mr. al Ansi now is. One is his family. He is one of five children. Muhammad is now 36 years old, he was a teenager when he left home and was barely 20 when he arrived at Guantanamo.

Muhammad's siblings are educated, married and hold responsible jobs. Although they grew up in Saudi Arabia, the family now lives in Yemen. But despite the unsettled conditions in Yemen, the al Ansi family still has resources which they are completely willing to use to help their brother start a new life after Guantanamo, as shown by the statements the family submitted to the first board and this panel. His family will be a stabilizing force when he is transferred.

The second factor is his health. [REDACTED] He

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knows that managing these chronic conditions takes much time, effort and attention, and that he must follow a strict diet and exercise regimen, in addition to his medications.

If he is released, Mr. al Ansi will have support from more than his family. The Carter Center, founded by President Carter, agreed to assist in his resettlement before the last hearing, and in conversations and emails with counsel they have renewed their agreement to help Mr. al Ansi settle successfully into a new country. In addition, Reprieve has agreed to work with Mr. al Ansi through its successful Life After Guantanamo project, which has helped over three dozen former detainees, many of them Yemenis, make the adjustment from Guantanamo to life in society. And, of course, I stand ready to assist using my firm's network of contacts and resources if necessary.

Mr. al Ansi comes before you as someone who has matured during his time in Guantanamo, from a teenager to a man who devotes his free time to art, understands the importance of family, and is confronted with serious medical challenges. He has taken advantage of his years here in taking numerous classes, including learning English. He has been unfailingly polite and gentle in all of his conversations with me, and non-ideological. He is known to the guards as someone who will help mediate disputes – a peacemaker, not a troublemaker. I ask this Board to approve him for transfer.

Thank you.

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PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE STATEMENT

Members of the Board. I am the Personal Representative for Muhammad Al-Ansi. I will be assisting Mr. Al-Ansi this morning aided by his Counsel Mrs. Beth Jacob.

From the beginning, Mr. Al-Ansi has intensely participated in the PRB process. He was very encouraged upon receiving the news for his Full Review Hearing. From his initial PRB hearing until now, he has maintained a record of perfect attendance for meetings with his Personal Representative (PR) and Private Counsel (PC) despite the constant change in scheduling. His professional manner throughout all engagements with his PC and PR has not wavered.

He continues to enthusiastically maintain his compliant behavior with the Joint Task Force (JTF) Guard Force and continues to engage with the JTF Medical Staff in order to deal with chronic health issues. In addition, Mr. Al-Ansi has not ceased to passionately take advantage of the educational opportunities to include courses in Mathematics, Science, English, Spanish, Life Skills, Computers, Art, and recently started the Arab British Academy for higher education studies. Since July of 2016, he has created an additional 150 quality works of art. Seven additional works of art are included in his case submission. Recently, he has enrolled in Small Project Management, Business Administration, Accounting and Ledgers classes.

Mr. Al-Ansi sincerely welcomes the opportunity to share his complete story at the Full Review Hearing. A Full PRB would provide Mr. Al-Ansi the prospect to answer any questions the Board may have regarding his time in Afghanistan or any other questions with regards to him being a significant continuous threat to U.S. National Security. Mr. Al-Ansi will demonstrate to the Board that he is willing to do whatever is necessary to leave Guantanamo and live out his life in peace.

Thank you for your time and attention. I am pleased to answer any questions you may have throughout this proceeding.