

PERIODIC REVIEW BOARD INITIAL HEARING, 19 JAN 2016
MAJID MAHMUD ABDU AHMED, ISN 041
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OPENING STATEMENT

Good morning ladies and gentlemen of the Board. We are the Personal Representatives of Majid Mahmud Abdu Ahmed. We will be assisting Mr. Ahmed this morning with his case, aided by Mr. David Remes.

Mr. Ahmed has been overjoyed and eager to participate in the Periodic Review Process. He has maintained a record of perfect attendance for meetings with his Personal Representatives and Counsel.

We were surprised by Mr. Ahmed's youthful appearance when we first met with him, despite spending the last 14 years in detention at Guantanamo Bay. This ascribes to the very young age at which he was recruited to go to Afghanistan.

We were favorably impressed by Mr. Ahmed's candor. He has proven forthright and honest in his interactions with us. He discussed his path to Afghanistan, from his home in Yemen through his eventual capture, with us in a clear manner.

Mr. Ahmed has proven to be engaging and extremely polite throughout his interactions and discussions with us. He is quick with a smile and exudes a warm personality.

He has taken advantage of all opportunities for education and personal enrichment while detained at Guantanamo. These opportunities include courses in Mathematics, Languages, Health and Art. We have provided examples of his coursework in his case submission.

Later, Mr. Ahmed will discuss both his past life and his desire for a better life for himself in the future.

We are confident that Mr. Ahmed's desire to pursue a better way of life if transferred from Guantanamo is genuine. He is open to transfer to any country, but would prefer an Arabic speaking country if possible.

Thank you for your time and attention. We are pleased to answer any questions you have throughout this proceeding.

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MAJID MAHMUD ABDU AHMED, ISN 041
PRIVATE COUNSEL OPENING STATEMENT

Good morning. I am David Remes, private counsel for Majid Mahmud Abdu Ahmed (ISN 041). I have represented Majid in his habeas case since July 2004 and have met with him dozens of times. In May 2005, I met Majid's family, and I have met Majid's father, a retired oil refinery worker, several times since.

Majid is outgoing and liked by other detainees. He is also compliant. Majid was held in the camp for the most compliant detainees, where detainees enjoyed communal living and personal freedom long before other detainees were extended these privileges. Majid has taken advantage of educational opportunities here, receiving high marks, and he is serious about continuing his education after he is released.

Majid prefers to be resettled in an Arabic-speaking, Muslim country, but he is willing to go to any country that the United States deems appropriate. He is willing to participate in rehabilitation or reintegration programs and to accept such security conditions as the United States deems appropriate. As mentioned, his goal is getting his life back on track.

We ask the Board to recommend that Majid be transferred to a third country, without special conditions.

Thank you.