

1 CA: This Periodic Review Board is reconvened at 0959 hours,  
2 29 July 2021, with regard to the following detainee:  
3 Guleed Hassan Ahmed (ISN 10023). Please keep in mind that  
4 this session is at the TOP SECRET and below level.  
5 PM: Board Members, remember that when the detainee makes any  
6 statements, those statements are presumed to be classified.  
7 All discussions or questions need to remain at the  
8 UNCLASSIFIED level.  
9 PM: Guleed, during this hearing, you have an opportunity to  
10 make a personal statement or answer questions. It is your  
11 choice whether to make a statement or to answer questions  
12 during this session. Do you understand my explanation?  
13 GTMO Translator: [Translation of above]. Yes, Sir.  
14 PM: Guleed, are you planning on reading an opening  
15 statement?  
16 GTMO Translator: [Translation of above]  
17 Detainee: Yes, Sir.  
18 GTMO Translator: Yes, Sir.  
19 PM: Guleed, you may now make this statement to the Board.  
20 GTMO Translator: [Translation of above]  
21 Detainee: Good morning everyone. I'm Guleed Hassan Duran. I  
22 appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today. I  
23 take this process seriously and I believe that it's  
24 important for me to be here today and parti--participate in

25 the process. On the advice of my counsel and in  
26 consideration of the fact that my habeas case is being  
27 actively litigated in federal court in Washington, I must  
28 resp--respectfully decline to answer any questions during  
29 this hearing. There are however, a few thoughts that I  
30 would like to share with you. Please understand that I have  
31 been detained since 2004 under ver--under very difficult  
32 circumstances including some serious medical problems. I'm  
33 47 years old and I've been held for nearly 20 years without  
34 charge or trial. I'm not, and even never have been,  
35 designated for prosecution.

36  
37 I ask you each to put yourselves in my place. When you are  
38 in my position and have had almost no contact with outside  
39 world for a very long time, it can be very difficult to  
40 fully, to full eh, to fully imagine how to move forward and  
41 improve your situation by yourself. At some point, you have  
42 to put your faith and trust in others. I choose to trust my  
43 lawyers, and it's based on their advice that I will not  
44 answer any questions while we are waiting for Judge Walton  
45 to issue rulings in my habeas case. I admit that I'm also  
46 cautious and skep--skep--skeptical about this process today  
47 given what my experiences has been. Wouldn't you feel the  
48 same way if you were in my place? But I choose to trust you

49 and that you also take this process serious—seriously and  
50 that you will see that I should not continue to be here.  
51 As you consider your decision and the nearly 20 years old  
52 information, you have a (unintelligible) about me. Please  
53 do not mistake my decision not to answer questions as a  
54 sign of defiance or bad attitude toward toward the United  
55 States. It's not. Please understand too, I'm not happy  
56 about what has happened to me or about being in Guantanamo.  
57 It's very frustra—frustrating and demoralizing being held  
58 for so long when you have no idea when you will be  
59 released. And sometimes it boils over. Wouldn't you feel  
60 the same way if you were held without charge for this long  
61 or without any indication that you will be free one day  
62 based on allegations from almost two dec—decades ago?

63  
64 The last year I have a... the last year and a half have been  
65 particularly difficult because I have, I have had limited  
66 contact with my family and continue to be very worried  
67 about them given the pandemic and I'm sure you can  
68 understand this. And I haven't been able to meet with my  
69 lawyers in person because of the pandemic. It has been very  
70 hard on me, but the fact of the matter is that that I do  
71 not have any ill will towards the United States. I never  
72 have but I'm here and you are here. We are where we are

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73 right now. We can not go back and change the past, but I'm  
74 not the same person I was when I was arrested in 2004. That  
75 was long long time ago, 17 years ago. It was a different  
76 lifetime for me. All I want is just to move on my, on with  
77 my fam-my life. I want to be re-re-reunited with my wife  
78 and my children. I have lost so much time with them and it  
79 has been very difficult for everyone. You have any idea  
80 what it lies, what it's like to lose a barren or young  
81 child as I have while you were, while you are in prison  
82 with no idea when you will be released? You have no control  
83 over what matters most to most to you in life. You feel  
84 helpless. I don't want to lo- to lo- lose the next 20 years  
85 or however much time I have left in my life to Guantanamo.  
86 I don't want to die here, Inshallah. All I can add is that  
87 I'm willing to be transferred anywhere, under any  
88 circumstances, where I can live a quiet life and eventually  
89 be united with my family. I want to get a job and support  
90 them the way I have not been able to for for long time. I  
91 hope your decision will allowed me to have a future beyond  
92 Guantanamo. I consent to this statement being made public.  
93 Thank you.

94 PM: Guleed, you are not obligated to answer any questions posed  
95 by the Board Members. Do you want to answer our questions?

96 GTMO Translator: [Translation of above]

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97 Detainee: No. At all.

98 PM: Okay. That concludes then our questions for you from the  
99 Board Members. Guleed, a transcript of today's hearing may  
100 be posted to the Periodic Review Secretariat's website. Do  
101 you wish to have this posted? If yes, why? If no, why not?

102 GTMO Translator: [Translation of above]

103 Detainee: [Arabic]

104 GTMO Translator: Yes. Yes, I wish it to be published.

105 PM: Personal Representative and Private Counsel, do you have any  
106 final questions for Guleed?

107 PC: No, I don't.

108 PR: No, Sir.

109 PM: Guleed, do you have anything further you wish to say?

110 GTMO Translator: [Translation of above]

111 Detainee: [Arabic]

112 GTMO Translator: No.

113 PM: Guleed Hassan Ahmed (ISN 10023), this concludes your  
114 participation in this hearing. The Board will continue  
115 in a classified session. Your Personal Representative and  
116 Private Counsel will remain and continue to advocate on  
117 your behalf.

118 GTMO Translator: [Translation of above].

119 Detainee: [Arabic]

120 GTMO Translator: Got it.

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121 PM: The Board will deliberate to determine whether continued law  
122 of war detention is warranted. You will be advised of the  
123 results.

124 GTMO Translator: [Translation of above]

125 Detainee: [Arabic]

126 GTMO Translator: Got it.

127 PM: All members please remain seated until further instructed by  
128 the Case Administrator.

129 GTMO Translator: [Translation of above]

130 CA: We will take a short recess and prepare for the remaining  
131 session. Time now, 1009.

132 GTMO Translator: [Translation of above]