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1 CA: This Periodic Review Board is now reconvened at 0933 hours,  
2 15 February 2022, with regard to the following detainee:  
3 Muhammad Rahim (ISN 10029). Please keep in mind that this  
4 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. Rahim, during this hearing, you have an  
9 opportunity to make a personal statement or answer  
10 questions. It is your choice whether to make a statement or  
11 answer questions during this session. Do you understand my  
12 explanation?

13 HQ Translator: [Begins to translate above]

14 Detainee: Yes, Yes. Yes, sir.

15 PM: Rahim, are you planning on reading an opening statement?

16 Detainee: Yes.

17 PM: Rahim, you may now make that statement to the Board.

18 Detainee: Okay, you can hear me?

19 PM: Yes.

20 Detainee: [Arabic]

21 Detainee: Uh, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for giving me an  
22 opportunity to have the Board. Allah create life and death  
23 to examine people who do good and bad. He also created the  
24 weak and the powerful so he could examine what they do.

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25 Then they return to Allah and he will ensure justice is  
26 done. I am Rahim Afghani, fifty-five age, from Chaprahar  
27 district, Nangarhar province, Eastern Afghanistan. On 25  
28 June 2007, in Lahore, Pakistan, I was captured [REDACTED] while  
29 I was traveling with my wife- wives and children. After  
30 [REDACTED] was transferred to, I was transferred  
31 to C-, uh, to CIA custody. I was detained in Black site for  
32 appro-, approximately one year and I faced inhuman  
33 treatment, including torture. When I was transferred to CIA  
34 custody, I expected more human treatment because the USA is  
35 a democracy that respect human right. Instead, I was  
36 tortured. In March of 2008, I was transferred to  
37 Guantanamo, and I have been here ever since. It is well  
38 known to you, the people of Afghanistan are very poor and,  
39 uh, oppressed people. More than forty years of fighting and  
40 destruction, Afghan- uh, Afghanistan has is the reason for  
41 the poverty among Afghan and I am one of this tribe. Like  
42 other Afghan, we have a family system and I, uh, was trying  
43 to feed my family because I was the head of the family.  
44 When I was working with Arabs, I was doing so due to  
45 poverty. It was my job to provide for my family. I was  
46 working with Arabs as an interpreter, driver, and I was  
47 also helping them with agriculture and grocery shopping. I  
48 was paid monthly to assist my family. As you know, Russia

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49 invaded Afghanistan in 1979. After the invasion, America  
50 and other nations came to assist the mujahideen against  
51 Russia. Arab mujahideen also came to Afghanistan fight the  
52 Russians. The people of Afghanistan do not forget the good  
53 deeds of those helping against Russia. Our people are  
54 always thanking those who help in hard time. The people of  
55 the U-, US help Afghan mujahideen with weapons and money  
56 and help Afghan refugees buy food, shelter, and medication.  
57 Afghans will never forget this because it is part of Afghan  
58 history. When 9/11 happened, everything changed. Al-Qa'ida  
59 used Afghan land against the United States, without the  
60 knowledge or consi-, or consent of the Afghan people. But  
61 Afghan were angry about this and did not agree. At that  
62 time, the US planned to attack Afghanistan for revenge.  
63 Amir [Unintelligible] Mullah Omar asked the US to not  
64 attack Afghanistan, and we will try to find a good solution  
65 for this issue. But US attacked anyway and, uh, destructive  
66 fighting continued for twenty years with the, uh, exception  
67 of three days cease fire. After twenty years, the US has  
68 left Afghanistan and thank of God here is no-, now, uh,  
69 peace and security there. I am one of the Afghan affected  
70 and oppressed here in Guantanamo for 15 years without any  
71 charge or justice. As the only Afghan high value detainee,  
72 I also face discrimination here in Guantanamo. Every

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73 channel is in Arabic. This is simple thing I, just I told  
74 you, it's not some big thing, but this is very small thing.  
75 There is, I don't have, we don't have any single Pashtu  
76 channel. This is for 15 years. [Pause] And, uh, okay, uh,  
77 despite me requesting one at last, 50 uh 50 time, least 50  
78 times. All praise to Allah that the fighting in Afghanistan  
79 is finished, and there is peace and security in all of  
80 Afghanistan and all Afghans are happy about this. The  
81 current situation is to the benefit of Afghan and America  
82 because no fighting, uh, no Afghani mother is crying  
83 because here is son who was murdered in the fighting. There  
84 is no fighting alhamdulillah. Now after the withdraw, no  
85 American mothers will be crying either. The US will no  
86 longer spend millions of dollar a day fighting in  
87 Afghanistan. I give you the good news, and I give you the  
88 guarantee from me to you that there will be no danger from  
89 Afghanistan to anybody and Afghan land will not be used  
90 against any country. Also, after a little time, all those  
91 who criticize President Biden for withdraw will be praising  
92 the decision to leave Afghanistan, and will say that  
93 President Biden was smart. Our stories about uh, enti-,  
94 entities like al-Qa'ida and ISIL-Khorasan using Afghan land  
95 to attack other are fake news. The people of Afghanistan  
96 want peace, security, and reconstruction. Everybody is

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97 against fighting. I wan-, I was not a danger to any before  
98 I was captured and I will not be a danger to anyone after I  
99 am released, inshallah. As I read this to you, I am sixty-  
100 fi- uh, fifty, fifty-six years old with multiple health  
101 problem. I have two brothers and their families in the UK.  
102 I have a total of more than 50 family member in the UK. If  
103 you release me, I could stay with my brothers in the UK and  
104 attempt to fix my health issues. If not England, I could go  
105 to Afghanistan, where my own family current is and start my  
106 life again here with my family. I ask you for justice  
107 because the United State does not benefit from keeping me  
108 confined without even any charge of crime. Thanks a lot.

109 PM: Rahim, you are not obligated to answer any questions posed  
110 by the board members. Do you want to answer our questions?

111 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

112 Detainee: [Arabic]

113 GTMO Translator: No, I cannot answer, uh, questions because you  
114 guys have not given opportunity to my lawyer to come here  
115 and represent me.

116 [Long Pause]

117 PR: Wait one, please.

118 [Unintelligable]

119 Detainee: Uh, no any answer about the past because I meet with  
120 you two time here, from this table, I answer you, I think

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121 that there is, was, supposed to my lawyer, uh, come here  
122 but there is no opportunity for him to come here and uh  
123 answer you and, uh, thanks a lot, if you have any, and uh,  
124 about my future, I am ready to answer you, if you want any  
125 explanation about situation in Afghanistan and any answer,  
126 but about past, I am not ready to answer you anything.

127 PM: Board members, please be mindful of the length of your  
128 questions for translation and break them into segments as  
129 necessary. Any questions? Go right ahead.

130 BM: Rahim, thank you for speaking with us today. Um, would you  
131 be willing to talk ab-

132 Detainee: Thank you.

133 BM: Without asking about the past specifically, could you talk  
134 about a change in how you think now versus before your  
135 capture?

136 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

137 Detainee: Uh, [Arabic], okay, in, uh, situation in Afghanistan,  
138 alhamdulillah, is better, you know after, uh, uh, US  
139 coalition withdraw from Afghanistan, there is stop war,  
140 there is no killing, there is no bombing, there is no, you  
141 are not spending money, there is you, uh, save, uh, uh,  
142 life, your American life, Afghan life, everything.  
143 Alhamdulillah, the situation there is very good and the  
144 people there are all also, the people of Afghanistan is

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145 very happy. My family is happy, they are visiting, going to  
146 Afghanistan, uh, right now they have a program to shift  
147 from Pakistan to, to, uh, their village, to Kabul city,  
148 inshallah.

149 BM: Before coalition forces came to the United State-, came to  
150 Afghanistan, would you say your mindset has changed from  
151 then until now?

152 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

153 Detainee: Uh, there is a, okay, uhm, the changes, when, uh,  
154 American, uh, entered to Afghanistan, they start war in  
155 Afghanistan, there war, destruction war, this is right  
156 nobody to, uh, deny this. But there is, was something  
157 going, for example, uh, in, uh, uh, education, uh, system  
158 was better, but there, is the war has affected everything.  
159 When, uh, the coalition is withdraw from Afghanistan, uh, I  
160 think there the situation is more better because, uh, the  
161 stop, the war, uh, stopped there and uh, if, uh, the war  
162 helped the, the current government uh, to, uh, [Arabic]

163 GTMO Translator: If the world helps the current government so  
164 the situation's gonna get better, uh, in order for all  
165 these things to bring it to a better situation, uh, the  
166 world has to help us.

167 BM: I'm sorry, I'm talking about in 1999 and 2000, before  
168 coalition forces were in Afghanistan, has your mindset

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169 changed, has your way of thinking changed from then to now?

170 I'm not talking about the wa-, after the invasion.

171 [Unintelligible]

172 Detainee: You know, I'm Afghani, and the people of Afghanistan

173 never need any, uh, foreigner to come inva-, uh, guide him,

174 or uh, uh, uh [Arabic]

175 GTMO Translator: To order and, uh, command

176 Detainee: To order the command Afghans. And I was never happy

177 the coalitionists came to Afghanistan because there is us

178 killing, how I, um, this is, uh, I'm, uh, surprising you

179 asking me something, uh, this will be, you knew about this,

180 you knew about Afghan people don't like uh foreigner to

181 come in, they occupy their land and if you want for example

182 there is you send the doctors and help the Afghan people,

183 the people want this but, uh, with the weapon you go there

184 and, uh, occupy Afghanistan, never Afghan will be receive

185 this.

186 BM: So you say you were not a danger to the United States, but

187 how can the Board understand this in light of you working

188 with al-Qa'ida in 2001 before the coalition forces came?

189 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

190 Detainee: Okay, yeah, I explain to you in my statement, at that

191 time when Usama Bin Laden and al-Qa'ida they used Afghan

192 land against America, this is not was, uh, by agree Afghan

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193 people. Never the Taliban known about this Usama Bin Ladin  
194 would do this wrong something to, uh, to destroy any, any  
195 country, destroy from Afghanistan or Afghan land used for  
196 against anybody, but Usama Bin Ladin did this. And at that  
197 time, time, you remember and I remember Mullah Omar was the  
198 [unintelligible] of Afghanistan, they ask the, the coa- the  
199 American, uh, President Bush at that time, please you don't  
200 attack, attack and we will be find an, a good solution for  
201 this, but we cannot give you, he told me, give me Usama Bin  
202 Laden, I give you, because this is not our, uh, uh,  
203 culture. This is right, the Afghan people is lose, but they  
204 have [Arabic]

205 GTMO Translator: They have the pride

206 Detainee: We have pride. We cannot, uh, surround to anybody  
207 like anybody but the, uh, the Afghan is never wanted to  
208 destroy, destroy America because Afgha-, America is our,  
209 was our coalition with, against Russia, they help us, we  
210 have in our, our history, the, I, I'm, [REDACTED]

211 [REDACTED]

212 There was, I never forget this and, uh, America, uh, we got  
213 a lot of weapons from you against our enemy you help us.  
214 This, all Afghan they, they remember this [Arabic]

215 GTMO Translator: Yes, uh, uh, favor.

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216 Detainee: Favor. You did against Russia. But Af- Afghan never  
217 was in agreement with Usama Bin Laden too, they uh use  
218 Afghan land uh against uh coalition right now when you, uh,  
219 sign agree- agreement with the Taliban. The Taliban gave  
220 you guarantee Afghan land will be never used against  
221 anybody not just against USA, or for example, the  
222 coalition. No, never countries, for example Pakistan, Iran,  
223 Tajikistan, was Pakistan, this country, we are not, because  
224 Afghan don't want to enter through the, the, the interior  
225 problems of other countries.

226 BM: You have never supported al-Qa'ida and Usama Bin Laden's  
227 attacks against America before coalition forces invaded?

228 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

229 Detainee: [Unintelligible] You ask me or you ask all Afghans?

230 BM: You.

231 Detainee: I not answer you about this. I told you please, I  
232 don't want to, uh, answer you about the past, because I  
233 answer you this twice and, uh, here as you don't have my  
234 lawyer, he [unintelligible] me, he say, you cannot answer  
235 anything about this, if you want to talk about, uh, general  
236 and Afghanistan situation, I am ready to explain to you  
237 what I know about. I don't have the bright picture of  
238 Afghanistan completely because I don't have any, uh, uh,  
239 more news of Afghanistan because I don't have any Pashtu

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240 channel from Afghanistan or from anywhere there is just I  
241 receive very little uh newspaper from my librarist.

242 BM: Thank you. Would you be willing to do a rehabilitation  
243 program [REDACTED]

244 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

245 Detainee: Uhm, yes, uh, I'm, uh, if there is anywhere from not,  
246 not jail is better than Guantanamo, why not? I want today,  
247 if you can.

248 [Unintelligible]

249 PM: Okay. Well, that concludes questions for you from the Board  
250 Members. Rahim, a transcript of today's hearing may be  
251 posted to the Periodic Review Secretariat's website. Do you  
252 wish to have this posted? If yes, why? If no, why not?

253 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

254 Detainee: Open, open, everything is open. I want to talk about  
255 this CNN, BBC, Pashtu, Urdu, all world, I want to talk  
256 about this.

257 PM: Okay. Personal Representative, do you have any final  
258 questions for Rahim?

259 PR: Yes, sir.

260 PM: Personal Representative, you may proceed with your  
261 questions for the detainee.

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262 PR: Rahim, we've talked about your family, uh, can you kind of  
263 talk about the education that your children are receiving  
264 currently in Afghanistan?

265 Detainee: Yes, uh, uh, I'm a, I have two wives. One, uh, my my,  
266 first wife, I married in, uh, 1992 and the second wife I  
267 married in, uh, 2002. From first wife I have, uh, six  
268 children, four sons and two daughters. And, uh, right now,  
269 I have, uh, grandchildren from my, uh, uh, from big  
270 daughters, daughter, [REDACTED] And my sons are uh, one son my  
271 [REDACTED] my son, he is, uh, married and they all, my  
272 children they are study. Some in the school, some in, uh,  
273 in the university in, right now in Kabul, in Afghanistan.  
274 My second wife, we, my, uh, uh, married with her she  
275 was 16 and right now when I captured she was in 22, in this  
276 14 years I'm separate from my children, my family, and uh,  
277 uh, I ask her few time [long pause]. Okay, I ask her if she  
278 want to, a divorce [pause]. Uh, but she don't, she don't  
279 want because she's from Pushtun tribe [pause] and, uh,  
280 Pushtun tribe, we uh, when we go to jail our female do, did  
281 not uh, do not want to uh uh, divorce and marry to another  
282 guy. She is waiting for me because she is younger and also  
283 my mama, my mother she is still alive and she is 9- right  
284 now in, uh 90, 95 age and she's waiting for me, she is  
285 praying for me. And, and uh, my family are, uh, members in

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286 Pakistan, in Lahore, and right now they have program to  
287 shift to Afghanistan because there is peace and security.

288 [Unintelligible]

289 PR: I wanted you to talk about, a little bit about the  
290 education that your children are receiving, what subjects,  
291 what do they want to do when they receive their education -  
292 medical school, someone wants to do cardiology, that sort  
293 of thing.

294 Detainee: Yes, uhm, my daughters they passed college in Lahore,  
295 Pakistan and my sons also, uh, mm, uh, first son, my big  
296 son [REDACTED] he passed, uh, um, [unintelligible] FA. And uh,  
297 the second so-, my second son, uh, he was in college too,  
298 but they shifted to Afghanistan. But I know about my second  
299 son he doing hard, uhm, hardware, software in computer. And  
300 [REDACTED] I think he is in agriculture, uh, uh, university.  
301 Uh, and uh I want to a little explain to you about my, uh,  
302 program about what I, uh, uh, wrote my letter to my family.  
303 When I watch television and I see the news about  
304 Afghanistan, there is, the situation is very bad. Before I,  
305 I was ignored about, inside I thought maybe the coalition,  
306 the American, and the, the European countries there is they  
307 spent a lot money there because they are talking about  
308 trillions of trillions of trillions they is building very  
309 nice hospitals, very big hospitals they will be able to

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310 have everything. When I watch this days, the hospitals same  
311 was in [Unintelligible] was in [Unintelligible] like you go  
312 to any uh [Arabic]

313 GTMO Translator: Shower

314 Detainee: Like shower room. There is no hospitals. I become very  
315 unhappy [Unintelligible], there is, there is news,  
316 [Unintelligible] all Afghanistan there is no MRI. What MRI  
317 system in Afghanistan? Okay, I wrote a letter to my family,  
318 we have big land and I have some family members in USA and  
319 we have in Canada, I have my family member in Canada, in  
320 Europe, my brothers in uh, uh, in UK, and I, uh, write a,  
321 wrote a letter to my brother, please you start build a  
322 hospital and, uh, there is you ask for some people, the  
323 Afghanis people in uh in the Europe if they find any these  
324 machinery, uh, uh, medical uh uh equipment to ship to there  
325 to help the people. This is my uh, uh, [Arabic]

326 GTMO Translator: This is what I am hoping towards.

327 PR: So your family has a history of donating land. Uh, can you  
328 talk about some of the, uh, opportunities that your father  
329 provided your district with the land that he donated?

330 Detainee: Yes, my uh, yes, I am from, uh, uh, Chaprahar  
331 district. This is in Eastern Afghanistan, between Tora Bora  
332 and Jalalabad city, we are about 20 kilometers to south of  
333 uh Jalalabad city and, uh, my father has very big land and,

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334 uh, before, I think 70 years, uh, when, uh, education start  
335 in Afghanistan, uh, my brothers, our, my family brother, my  
336 my, uh, uncles, all are educated and my father was, he  
337 liked to, his sons and family, are will be educat- uh  
338 educated and, uh, there is school, uh our school was the  
339 history. My father tell me the, the, the, he tell me the  
340 story about this was in another village, far far from our  
341 village and was under tree. The student going there is and  
342 was sitting under tree and they, my father told the  
343 government, please come and I will, uhm, donate land for a  
344 school. At that time my brother, uh, gave, uh, two acres of  
345 land to donated government. And also after the fall of uh  
346 communist regime in 1991, my father also donated uh  
347 government for hospital, district, uh, office and court  
348 and, uh, animal, uh, hospital, uh - what do you call them?

349 GTMO Translator: Veterinaries

350 Detainee: Veterinaries and like this and, uh, right now we have  
351 opportunity, to build inshallah, hospital there and, uh uh,  
352 to help our people. Also one thing more, I want to explain  
353 to you, to tell you about when I watch television, the part  
354 of television there is, the uh, [Arabic]

355 GTMO Translator: Deaf and Dumb

356 Detainee: Oh, deaf and uh. Yes. We have a lot of people in our  
357 uh district and I have program when I go, inshallah, I will

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358 find to educate this deaf people because they are, uh, live  
359 in very bad situation. If they are educated with this they  
360 will be find, uh, good good life.

361 PR: Alright, I want to just ask one more question and it could  
362 be in parts as we go here, you mentioned in your statement  
363 that you worked for Arabs, that you were looking to provide  
364 for your family. Would you have worked for coalition forces  
365 if approached, to still provide for your family?

366 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

367 Detainee: [Arabic] One is helping, and one is working. Helping  
368 mean this, you, helping, uh, anybody against anybody. And  
369 one is working with us. For example, there is was at that  
370 time in 1992 when, uh uh, Russian government, the the  
371 Njibullah government fall and we come back to from Pakistan  
372 to Afghanistan to our country and I learn Arabic in the  
373 shower because there is was some Arabic Arab camps there  
374 and they open courses for uh for Afghan refugees. And I  
375 learn there is some little, not more, I learn Arabic in,  
376 in, uh, Guantanamo because I am this 15 years with the  
377 Arabs and I'm talking with Arab, in Arabic there, I forgot  
378 my Pashtu because I will, I talk with [Unintelligible] the  
379 interpreter here, I mix Pashtu with, uh uh, with Arabic  
380 when I talk with the my my family on the skype sometime.  
381 And that time, I I talk I start in Arabic because 15 years

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382 I'm talking Arabic, Arabic, Arabic, I forgot my Pashtu.  
383 Okay, one, the, the, when I, at that I was looking for job  
384 if I was learned English, there is, was people they learn  
385 English, they find job in, uh, UN offices they were working  
386 there and I find I was little Arabic with me, in Arab  
387 people there was in Jalalabad city and I find job with him  
388 because they pay money for me monthly maybe 50 dollar or  
389 like this to support my family. If I was learn English and  
390 coalition or anybody was, yes, I want to find job, yes, I  
391 want to do.

392 PR: One more, uh, in your past, did you work with any United  
393 Nations or NGOs, uh, in any, uh, capacity?

394 Detainee: Yes, I was working, uh, yes, I was working with uh,  
395 uh, there is uh a UNDCPU, United Nations Debt Control  
396 Program in Afghanistan from 1993-1996. Uh, I was, uh,  
397 finance, uh, uh officer in that office [unintelligible]  
398 Nangarhar Debt Control office and I was there with uh, I  
399 work with, uh in a uh, we were helping with the people  
400 about debt control. And also we have at that time the  
401 American uh ambassador in Pakistan that visited Jalalabad  
402 and I was uh, [Arabic]

403 GTMO Translator: I was their host

404 Detainee: Host. And [unintelligible] hotel.

405 PR: Okay, I'm, I'm done with the questions. Thank you.

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406 PM: Do the members of the Board have any additional questions  
407 in light of the Personal Representative's questions?  
408 [pause] Rahim, do you have anything further you wish to  
409 say?

410 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

411 Detainee: Thanks a lot. [Arabic]

412 GTMO Translator: Thank you so much.

413 PM: Muhammad Rahim (ISN 10029), this concludes your  
414 participation in this hearing. The Board will continue in a  
415 classified session. Your Personal Representative will  
416 remain and continue to advocate on your behalf.

417 HQ Translator: [Translates above]

418 PM: The Board will deliberate to determine whether continued  
419 law of war detention is warranted. You will be advised of  
420 the results.

421 HQ Translator: [Translates above]

422 PM: All members please remain seated until further instructed  
423 by the Case Administrator.

424 HQ Translator: [Translates above]

425 CA: We will take a short recess and prepare for the remaining  
426 session. Time now, 1013.

427 HQ Translator: [Translates above]

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