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1 CA: Please be advised that the audio and video feeds are now
2 active. This Periodic Review Board is now reconvened at
3 0941 hours, 15 August 2023, with regard to the following
4 detainee, Muhammad Rahim (ISN 10029). Please keep in mind
5 that this session is at the [REDACTED] level.

6 PM: Board Members, remember that when the detainee makes any
7 statements, those statements are presumed to be classified.
8 All discussions or questions need to remain at the
9 UNCLASSIFIED level. [Pause] Rahim, during this hearing, you
10 have an opportunity to make a personal statement or answer
11 questions. Is it your choice whether to make a statement or
12 to answer questions during this session. Do you understand
13 my explanation?

14 Detainee: Yes

15 HQ Translator: [Translates above]

16 Detainee: Yes, yes

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

18 HQ Translator: [Translates above]

19 Detainee: Yes.

20 PM: Rahim, you may now make a statement to the Board.

21 HQ Translator: [Translates above]

22 Detainee: [Arabic] In the name of Allah, the most [pause]
23 compassionate, the most merciful. My naz-, name is Muhammad
24 Rahim. I want to begin by thanking you for this opportunity

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25 to show you what I know in my hear-, my heart. That I pose
26 no threat to the United State or it is interest. I am not
27 an enemy to the United State. In the 1980s, Americans
28 assisted me and other Afghans against the Russian invaders.
29 [Pause] In the 1990s, I worked along the DEA and drug
30 eradication and assisted at the American Ambassador visit
31 to Jalalabad. I want to be clear, the terrible attack of
32 9/11 were act of Al-Qaida. The government and people of
33 Afghanistan did not and would never agree to [pause] attack
34 on civilians. Al-Qaida ushered in a generation of war,
35 pain, and death in which Americans, Afghans, and any others
36 suffered, so soon after the Russians were driven out of
37 Afghanistan. It led to many horror, horrors infli-,
38 inflicted on innocent people. There is long history of
39 conflict in Afghanistan, and equally a long history of
40 friendship emerging afterwards. As the United State become
41 friend and allies with Germany and Japan after World War
42 II, God-willing, the United State and Afghanistan will
43 become friends once again. I am the last Afghan in
44 Guantanamo, and I hope to be a small part of the process.
45 As a 57-years-old man in poor health, I am con-, confident
46 that the United State does not fear that I would return to
47 a battlefield that no longer exist. But I can understand
48 that you might fear what I would say if released. So I will

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49 tell you the lesson I, the lesson I learned in Guantanamo.
50 First, from the violations I experienced, I learned the
51 importance of respecting the human rights of every man,
52 woman, boy, and girl. One of those human rights is
53 education. I have two daughters who graduated high school,
54 but could not attend college. I hope that Afghanistan will
55 open it is high schools and uni-, universities to girls and
56 women and soon as possible. Second, from my long
57 imprisonment, imprisonment, I learned the virtue of patience,
58 violence looks like an immediate solution, but in reality,
59 it only prolongs the suffering. At an Afghan jurga, where
60 conflicts are resolved, the people involved often wish they
61 had learned the le-, the lesson of peace earlier. In
62 Guantanamo, I have struggled with patience, and sometime
63 let my [pause] frustra-, uh, frustration get the better of
64 me. But I learned that every conflict can be resolved with,
65 uh, patience. Finally, from meeting hundreds of Americans,
66 I learned that the positive view of America I had as
67 [pause] as a young person was mostly justified. As you, as
68 a young person, virtually every book or agricultural
69 product I saw had it is origins in the United State. During
70 the darkest times of my capture, um, captivity, the biggest
71 shock was that Americans could be doing these thing, things
72 to me. But during these sixteen years in Guantanamo, I

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73 learned that many of the Americans I inter-, interact with
74 have big heart and recip-, re-, uh, recipor-, reciprocate
75 kindness and respect. Not just attorney and personal
76 representatives, but also guards, officers, and medical
77 staff. I especially want to thank the medical staff who
78 treated me with kindness, respect, and humanity during my
79 recent hospility, hospit-, hospit-, hospitality stay.
80 [Pause] What would I do if eventually released? [Pause] I
81 would pursue my love of cooking and hope to open a small
82 booth or food truck. We don't have much here, but it is
83 wonderful what one can accomplish with a microwave and a
84 passion for food. Sharing food is an experience that bring
85 people together, no matter where they are from. I know that
86 you have a job to do, to keep your country and families
87 safe. I appreciate you doing tha- that job, and hope you
88 understand that I am no threat to you or those that you
89 love. I humbly ask you to clear me for release, so that one
90 day I'm, I may return to those whom I love. Thank you.

91 [Pause]

92 PM: Rahim, you are not obligated to answer any questions posed
93 by the Board Members. Do you want to answer our questions?

94 GTMO Translator: [Begins translating above]

95 Detainee: Yes.

96 [Pause]

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97 PM: Board members, please be mindful of the length of your
98 questions for translation and break them into segments as
99 necessary.

100 [Long Pause]

101 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

102 Detainee: Not yet. [Pause] Yeah, yes, yeah.

103 PM: Well, let me, let me start by answering, or asking, a
104 question. Can you tell me about your relationship with your
105 brother in the United Kingdom?

106 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

107 Detainee: Yes, uh my brothers, Zadrán, he's in United Kingdom.
108 He came, he escaped from uh Pakistan and uh I think was uh
109 2013 and he lived there with uh his wife and three children
110 and uh [pause] right now he's a taxi driver but he is my
111 really uh close uh brother because he was uh helping my,
112 right now he's fel-, helping my family and uh my children
113 in their education, their food, clothes, everything he
114 provides to my brother, and I respect and thank, thanks
115 him.

116 [Long Pause]

117 PM: Okay well I'll ask another question. Um I I'm curious about
118 your experience with food trucks, given that there are no
119 food trucks in Guantanamo. Uh, what what has prompted you
120 to consider having your own food truck?

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121 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

122 Detainee: Oh, I decided, if I released, how to provide some,
123 help my family and uh I was cooking here for a long time
124 and uh little little little and collected and I make it
125 big. Because uh long time 10 years old, 13 years, I'm
126 cooking cooking, I cook some uh different kinds and um the
127 last restaurant right now I um big expert and I can [pause]
128 provide, um uh all kind of Afghani food and with uh good
129 recipe inshallah.

130 BM: Thanks for that. I just have a few more follow-up questions
131 on the same topic. Um, can you talk a little bit more
132 about, you know this food truck, um uh business that you
133 plan to start. Tell us more about what do you plan to do if
134 you're released from Guantanamo. Um where would this food
135 truck be located, I mean in in in reality, realistically,
136 where would you want to start this business, who would work
137 for you, um, how would you plan to get money to, to get
138 this business off the ground? Can you just talk a little
139 bit more about your post-detention plans if you were to get
140 released?

141 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

142 Detainee: Oh yes, uh [clears throat] I I will see because I
143 have two ideas, food truck or restaurant. Uh, when, if uh I
144 released inshallah, and soon, if I was uh in uh place there

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145 is uh for example akin to a uh uh fine place for
146 restaurant, I will uh open a restaurant, but by name
147 Afghani Village restaurant because I want to mm uh make uh
148 Afghani villages run with for example everybody would be
149 sit on the floor and uh Afghani carpets and uh I will uh
150 make for uh my food will be inshallah Afghani food, and
151 about uh how to, who will be uh give me money my two
152 brothers in uh United Kingdom, and they have money. They,
153 right now they helping my family. They merit my sons my
154 daughters, and they spend a lot of money on my family and
155 uh they will be give me money inshallah and also uh right
156 now in Afghanistan we have land we have markets, I can um
157 uh bring money from Afghanistan to help out if I was in uh,
158 for example in uh uh anywhere.

159 [Long Pause]

160 BM: Thank you for that. And then can you tell us if you do get
161 released where would you want to resettle? [REDACTED]

162 [REDACTED]

163 [REDACTED]

But where

164 would you want to be resettled? Um and and if you know, if
165 you could talk about also where you would start this
166 business? Um, can you give us an idea? Thank you.

167 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

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168 Detainee: Uh yes. Um, [pause] you know I can talk um because I,
169 um I can talk in uh Arabic language if for example I go to
170 [REDACTED] or anywhere in the in the Arabic, uh Arab
171 countries and also if there is for example you transfer me
172 to United Kingdom, to my brothers, they will help me there.
173 Already I have brothers. Also I have idea about [REDACTED]
174 [REDACTED] has v- very good relation with Afghans. They receive
175 Afghans. One of them will be not big things if they uh
176 would send me there. It's uh it's up to you if you want to
177 release me inshallah, I will go today.

178 BM: Thank you for that. [Pause] Um. Then my next question is,
179 sort of, can you talk about what has changed for you since
180 your last hearing? Um, uh you know do you do you have
181 different opinions now? Do you have different way of
182 looking at life? Has there, has there been any changes
183 since your last hearing? Or is basically is everything kind
184 of still the same?

185 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

186 Detainee: Okay, as you know, uh I I mentioned in my uh [pause]
187 uh uh my statement about uh human rights. I before also was
188 [pause] mor- kind with uh um uh everybody, but uh uh, in
189 Guantanamo I learned a lot something. Because this is very
190 big uh big University in Guantanamo. And uh the prison of
191 Guantanamo is not easy. If here stay without any problems,

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192 this mean uh you are, you have very big heart [laughs]. If
193 you come here and uh uh I challenge you if you stay one
194 month here without any problems [laughs]. But I stay here
195 very happy in Guantanamo. 16 years. Yeah, I like my
196 Guantanamo because this Guantanamo give me a lot of things.
197 If I explain to you, maybe it need for one month to explain
198 to you what I learned. But uh I learned patience, the first
199 thing. Before this I was uh uh no uh a man of patience, but
200 practically, and the 16 or 17 years I learned patience. And
201 uh this is the big things if you learned, because uh the
202 sex is of the head of sex is the patient and human rights.
203 This is uh the big things in Guantanamo. Uh you, you have
204 mm you'll be learning the the rights of human, to respect
205 human. And right now, I think I am the teacher of this
206 part. [Pause] Yes.

207 [Long Pause]

208 BM: Rahim, thank you for speaking with us. Um to follow up on
209 the other question. Has there been a change in how you look
210 at America in the last year? Or since your first hearing,
211 2016? Or would you say that your views are pretty much the
212 same as they were in 2016 when you first spoke to this
213 board?

214 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

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215 Detainee: Yes, uh there is uh a lot of changes. You know. Uh
216 the first thing is uh the fighting that hamdullah finished
217 in Afghanistan. It was big damage in my mind. You know
218 there is I have family members my um [pause] uh my tribe um
219 every day I was thinking about whether there was killing
220 you know, it was 20 years in Afghanistan, this was big, uh
221 uh destroying to Afghanistan hamdullah it finished. Right
222 now, uh I'm trying how to, to make a lane of, uh lane or uh
223 for example friendship not betw- just between me and and uh
224 America, no, but uh my nation and America because uh uh the
225 fighting finished. Right not we, we have, we have to become
226 friends uh and um America help uh the po-, po-, poor people
227 of Afghanistan uh and I ask you please you pass my message
228 to the big people uh to, to help the people of Afghanistan,
229 do not leave him uh alone, because you know uh there is a
230 lot of problem in Afghanistan. In se-, health sector, uh
231 education and everywhere. And uh this is my uh answer and
232 also there is a uh request uh for you. [Long Pause] Uh as
233 uh I mentioned in my statement uh about America there is,
234 uh, you know guards, guard force, we have very nice guards
235 and our uh lawyers and there is very it it is right the
236 black site if you, uh the the the black site you put it
237 back. Do not think about because uh if anybody want to go
238 to the front they have to forget what is was in the past

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239 and uh everybody if want to, to go to the front, and they
240 want to uh to build something, they have to forget what was
241 the troubling thing in in the past and they have to to
242 think about good ideas uh in uh in the future. Thank you
243 for your asking.

244 [Long Pause]

245 BM: You said you had positive views, [pause] you said you had
246 positive views of America as a child, is that correct?

247 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

248 Detainee: Yes, uh uh my father was a politic guy. Man was. He,
249 because he was a uh tribal elder and uh he has a lot of uh
250 friends. They were educated in the, in the United State.
251 And sometime they were uh visiting my father. And they were
252 uh telling the, uh telling the story of America. How they
253 treated in America. They, professor was for example, they
254 were professors in, in, in uh different uh uh um uh
255 departments. The doctors in, uh, in, in, from our, our
256 district that we have the professors, the doctors from
257 educated from America. And also, our uh books in uh um in
258 our school, they were published, uh was printing in
259 America. Helping for, with the education minister in
260 Afghanistan. In the last page there is was [speaks with
261 GTMO translator in Arabic]

262 GTMO Translator: Thank you to the publisher.

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263 Detainee: Yes. And also um we had we have uh a big part of the
264 uh uh land of for for uh agriculture. And everywhere we was
265 receiving the seed and um fertilizer uh um from uh ministry
266 of agriculture uh and they were all uh help from America.
267 There were, there is was sent uh from the people of America
268 for, to, the people of Afghanistan. And this was um uh um
269 uh um positive idea about uh United State. I hope you
270 understand my question.

271 BM: Uh yes. Um thank you for your answer. Uh when did your
272 positive views of America change? [Pause] In your views
273 [distorted audio] changed?

274 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

275 Detainee: Uh, my idea not change. When I were pic-, uh captured
276 [REDACTED]
277 [REDACTED]. They were beating me and they were curse me but um
278 I don't like to anyone curse me. For example, they told me
279 mother fucker, or like this, but they were in every word
280 they were using that. [REDACTED]
281 [REDACTED] okay please I don't want to talk
282 with you here. You take me from here, anywhere you want, I
283 will, I go [REDACTED]. I was, uh, my, my
284 uh positive idea, about America. They will be respect me. I
285 never would say, they would do like this, uh torture me or
286 they do like this, there is one [REDACTED] interpreter [REDACTED]

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287 [REDACTED] [Unintelligible]. They coming with and
288 when they um I stopped there and I said [REDACTED]
289 [REDACTED] and uh they start, they tear my
290 clothe. They started like, uh, very uh um very bad
291 treatment. I was surprised, why did they do like this. Okay
292 when I arrived to, I don't know where, and there is again
293 they did fo- to me, they cut my beard, they cut my hair,
294 ne-, they lift something. They did very uh bad treatment
295 with me. I surprised why you do like this, me okay stop
296 stop stop. They, but they, they did everything I cannot
297 explain to you because that was a, the very bad uh time in
298 my life. If I if I die before and nobody find me, I better
299 for that from what they did to me. But okay, happen. And
300 when they open my eyes I ask him please what do you want
301 from me, why do they do like this. They say, oh this is our
302 uh um our procedure, we do like this. Well tell me what
303 procedure [Unintelligible]. I was to sit with you [REDACTED]
304 [REDACTED] [speaks with GTMO translator in Arabic].

305 GTMO Translator: I said I was treating you badly.

306 Detainee: Badly. And I, and I choose American to them they
307 would be respect because democracy, relation-, uh,
308 relationship but they, but they did everything. When they
309 uh, one year I was here 9 months and in 9 months I, uh they
310 never gave me food, just I was taking the pills for for

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311 that. And um sometime they would give me food because
312 [unintelligible] to the stomach not to drink or something
313 like this, okay. And when I done with that [REDACTED]
314 [REDACTED] I came to Guantanamo and Guantanamo was Camp
315 number se-, camp number seven, you know Camp number seven
316 is uh was uh like uh [speaks with GTMO translator in
317 Arabic]

318 GTMO Translator: It was like Hell.

319 Detainee: Like Hell, but no problem. But the guards [REDACTED]
320 [REDACTED] but al-hamdullah little uh
321 time after change everything. And uh my idea not uh uh
322 change about America but some people [pause] they did wrong
323 with me and uh but after that I saw. Yeah, guards some was
324 but some, in, at that time some they were coming and were
325 crying with us. Yes, yeah my eyes saw. The female guard and
326 guard they came and they they saw me in in bad situation.
327 They crying with me saying, sorry this is not our, I am
328 human and I, I, what I see you like this I'm uh I'm uh
329 [speaks with GTMO translator in Arabic].

330 GTMO Translator: I'm surprised, and very unhappy.

331 Detainee: Unhappy yes. I see you in in this situation. This is
332 uh I don't have any bad idea about America. America is our
333 friend. And I hope to be um start again relationship with
334 uh Afghanistan inshallah.

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335 BM: What, what year were you captured?

336 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

337 Detainee: I, I captured in 2007, 25 June.

338 BM: Okay, um, who was responsible for 9/11? Is there one person
339 or is there one group [pause] that was responsible?

340 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

341 Detainee: You know that Al-Qaida um uh was responsible for
342 that. I don't know how many they they were in- involved
343 with that [pause] program.

344 BM: Is there any one individual that was responsible? [Pause]
345 Do you think?

346 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

347 Detainee: I do not know about because [pause] I am Afghani not
348 Al-Qaida.

349 BM: Okay, did, so so Al-Qaida was responsible for 9/11, did you
350 assist Al-Qaida in any role? Did you assist them- I
351 understand that you didn't know about 9/11, may not have
352 known about 9/11, but did you assist that group, Al-Qaida,
353 while you were in Afghanistan- in any, in any way, did you
354 assist Al-Qaida?

355 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

356 Detainee: Uh, you-, le-, uh [sigh], I I me-, mentioned in my uh
357 mentioned in my um statement I left, uh um worked with Al-
358 Qaida in 1999, October 18. I remember because on that day,

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359 my father was sick and he was in Peshawar in hospital. And
360 that day, my brother came to me and he told me, my-, our,
361 father uh um um uh laboratory result is my father is uh
362 kidney cancer. And I left to work with uh Al-Qaida at that
363 time. And uh then I started in Jalalabad with uh my father
364 to move into Peshawar and come back to Peshawar and
365 Jalalabad, Peshawar and Jalalabad in 2001. And April, I
366 think was April or May my father passed away. And uh I
367 never uh helped anybody uh to attack in against uh um
368 America because there is no reason for that. Please ma-, uh
369 see. America assisted us against Russian and and 10 years I
370 were, we were [Unintelligible] in Peshawar. And uh this 10
371 years, we took food from America. Not just me. Millions of
372 Afghans. How Afghani did assist anybody to attack um uh
373 America? This is you know you you you uh Amer- America uh
374 um um accused Taliban also they help Amer-, Al-Qaida Al-
375 Qaida Al-Qaida, but never, the Taliban did that. If Taliban
376 known about it to they will attack America, they will at
377 that time will be finished it. Just was something happened,
378 and uh um there is no reason for uh to Afghani will be
379 against America. I don't think.

380 [Pause]

381 BM: So if I could, just, I just want to make sure that, so
382 everything that you have ever told us, like this group,

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383 it's all in this book right here in front of us, okay, so I
384 want to ask you like one question now. After 9/11, did you
385 go to Tora Bora with Al-Qaida?

386 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

387 Detainee: No. Never.

388 [Pause]

389 BM: Okay. Um so another question would be, [pause] so you
390 understand that Al-Qaida was responsible for 9/11 and at
391 least some period of time you assisted Al-Qaida in
392 whatever, in whatever ways, we can agree on that. One thing
393 that I have not heard or seen, or I have not heard from you
394 is like, what, what regrets do you have, because you were
395 providing assistance to a group that attacked the United
396 States, killed thousands of people, I'm just wondering, do
397 you feel any regret for what you did?

398 GTMO Translator: [Starts to translates above]

399 BM: Support that you provided.

400 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

401 Detainee: Please you uh um [pause] talk with my attorney. He
402 will be list- little explain to you more. [Speaks with PC]
403 Okay okay okay uh I-, one minute here, I will, I will
404 answer you. [Speaks with PC].

405 [Long Pause]

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406 PR: He's just kind of further explaining the question, um, a
407 little clearer. We'll get it out here.

408 Detainee: Okay uh the first uh uh um, I not assisted uh uh Al-
409 Qaida, but I was interpreter, just interpreter. [Long
410 Pause] [speaks with PC]. And uh [Pause] just uh just I was
411 interpreter and from uh 1996 to 1999. This four years I was
412 there and uh [pause] uh the record is that was if for
413 example I understand Al-Qaida is doing like this, I will
414 fr-, not, uh, not did anything with them at that time.
415 Because-, but this is, was, my my problem because you know
416 the people of Afghanistan were poor people and we, when we
417 returned to Afghanistan uh in uh 1992 after fall of the
418 communist regime in Afghanistan and when um I get to
419 Afghanistan, there got to Afghanistan, there is no work and
420 um I had um big family. And there is was draught, because
421 no was rain, agriculture, everything was and I find uh um
422 the work with the uh Arabs and that I was nobody know who
423 is Al-Qaida because the Al-Qaida name in Afghanistan uh
424 after 9/11 the people known under the uh the name of Al-
425 Qaida but um the the big regret is not just me. I think the
426 Taliban, and the people of Afghanistan they all have
427 regretted why they give him uh shelter to to these people,
428 why they not control him, but this was the big mistake,
429 yes.

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430 [Pause]

431 BM: Nothing further.

432 [Indistinguishable]

433 [Pause]

434 BM: To follow up on my colleague's question, just so we
435 understand, in 2005 and 2006 before you were arrested, were
436 your views of America the same then as your views are now,
437 about America?

438 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

439 Detainee: Uh at that time when uh America invaded in, in
440 Afghanistan, uh, I hoped to Afghanistan will be great.
441 [Pause] This part because Afghanistan destroyed in uh in uh
442 in Russian in in Russian times they destroyed uh from the
443 basic everything. And uh when America came, and uh [speaks
444 with GTMO translator in Arabic]

445 GTMO Translator: Coalition

446 Detainee: Coalition they came, I hoped they will rebuild, build
447 Afghanistan but they start war. And uh I never had any uh
448 uh [speaks with GTMO translator in Arabic]

449 GTMO Translator: Any wrong thought or thinking

450 Detainee: Any wrong talk about Americans before and after that.
451 [speaks with PC]

452 BM: But, to clarify-

453 [Pause]

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454 Detainee: [Speaks with PC] okay, and um right now I have uh a
455 good idea about, uh, again about uh America and before
456 because um you know I have a big um part of my family in
457 America and I like him, they like us and we we are in
458 contact with him and um we like America. I want to go there
459 with my family if you want release me I go there.

460 PC: I understand the question to be about change. I'm just
461 going to explain that real quick. Just to, so we get you
462 the answer to the question that you, that you want.

463 BM: His direct answer. [Pause] Excuse me.

464 PR: Say that again, we did not hear that last part.

465 BM: I would, I would rather have his direct answer. [Pause]
466 That's fine. If you if you would like to give some
467 clarifications during the next session, that's fine. But we
468 would like to hear what his thoughts are.

469 PC: Okay, well that was his answer.

470 BM: Okay. So [Pause] to follow up on that, your feelings of
471 violence towards America in 2005, 2006 and your feelings of
472 violence against America now, are they the same?

473 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

474 Detainee: No, I never before and uh now not. Never, right now
475 I'm I don't have any any uh bad idea about United State. I
476 I I see him like our uh friends [Pause] if you believe it
477 or not this is your but uh I I there heres be a lot of

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478 friends you know. I I make made made a lot of friends -
479 guards and um for example, uh officers, lawyers, and every-
480 , everybody would be inshallah come to visit us in uh visit
481 us in Afghanistan. We have big relation with the people and
482 I find before just I was hearing about about America from
483 my [Unintelligible] who who after my captivities and after
484 that I I shift the 16 years I'm in with uh Americans. And
485 after that uh ush uh that dark time for example in uh in a
486 black site, uh theres forget because we want to go uh
487 forward and uh we have to to to forget that one. And in
488 inshallah we have to um build uh good relation with United
489 State.

490 BM: Rahim, we appreciate your honesty with the board, we're,
491 I'm just trying to understand better. You seem to be saying
492 before your arrest, you did not feel violent, violent
493 thoughts or anger at America and now you do not feel
494 violent thoughts or anger at America. So it is the same?
495 Are you saying that? Or do I, do you want to change that?

496 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

497 Detainee: Yeah. [Speaks with PC]

498 PC: I'm just explaining the nature of change in your questions.

499 BM: If, if I could though, we really want to hear his opinion
500 on this. That's why we are asking HIM these questions,
501 please.

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502 PC: Okay, sure. [Pause] Yes, sir.

503 Detainee: I never was in uh I I uh I'm not [Unintelligible]

504 before, I'm there is um maybe before you receive any wrong

505 information about me but I don't have any bad idea against

506 not before, not yet. I'm uh I'm uh uh hone- honestly I I I

507 say to you I don't have any uh bad idea about America.

508 BM: Thank you, Rahim. I have nothing else.

509 [Pause]

510 BM: To follow up on that. So [pause] do I have the right

511 understanding that your view is that you are [pause]

512 detained and brought to Guantanamo based on a mistake and

513 that you never have supported violence on behalf of Al-

514 Qaida or against the United States?

515 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

516 Detainee: Yes. Uh listen. I uh when um the war started in

517 Afghanistan in 2001, I was in uh in my village and uh

518 [pause] in Russian war time, we had there is uh, you know

519 killing between communist and Mujahideen and that that you

520 know. Okay. And at that time, I received there is uh in war

521 time, we killed between each other you know. Communist was

522 from our tribe or for example from our descent. And they

523 came back to to power at that time. And uh my family, my

524 friends, they told me you have to leave the village and go.

525 At that time, I refute to Pakistan, and uh I was when I

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526 captured, I was in Peshawar and from Peshawar, I choose
527 Lahore because there is, I start to uh provide mm uh to
528 help my family because I start there is a small business
529 like uh something. And uh I was in Lahore and my children
530 they were in school. My sons, my daughters, my sis- uh
531 niece because my sister also in with me and I had a big uh
532 family my brothers, my brother's, um his children and I was
533 provide uh everything to my family this was and uh my uh my
534 uh responsibility. And when I captured, I captured with my
535 wife [pause] and my children and I not was in in the
536 fighting, uh for example in uh trench not in Tora Bora not
537 in Jalalabad not in [laughs]. I wasn't in, in Lahore. I
538 never got to Afghanistan in this duration. But I don't know
539 I why you do have for example why this idea against me
540 [laughs]. I feel I did, I never I never fou- fought with uh
541 coalition. Never. [Pause] If you want to for example, swear
542 see [Pause] this is my Quran in my hand. And Muslim, they
543 not swear uh for example on lying on Quran. I never f-,
544 never fought. But I uh this is my explanation on why, and
545 if there are any more questions, I I'm here. I explain to
546 you and uh until you clear your heart about uh about me
547 because this is. We have to talk.

548 [Long Pause]

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549 BM: So I guess what we're struggling with, we have a lot of
550 information from many different you know statements about
551 what you were doing in Afghanistan, during the, that period
552 in 2000, 2001 and up until when you were detained that you
553 were uh more deeply involved in Al-Qaida then what you are
554 saying, alright. And that you did support violence
555 including against the United States so are, what my
556 understanding is you're saying is that is all false
557 information? Is that right, or is there some truth to it
558 that you want to explain?

559 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

560 Detainee: [Speaks with PC] Uh I don't know what you received.
561 What information? Can you explain to me? [Pause] Please?
562 [Pause]

563 BM: I can't provide specifics, but just you can assume we have
564 a lot of information that is different than how you're
565 characterizing your activity during that time, including
566 your involvement in Al-Qaida.

567 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

568 Detainee: Uh you know when I uh left Al-Qaida, in uh 1999,
569 after that, I cut everything out but just one thing I want
570 to explain, to you. In Jalalabad, there was Arab, they made
571 it Afghans, they were in fighting in uh against Russian
572 times, they were with us. And they made it from our village

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573 and from for example [Unintelligible], they were in
574 Jalalabad and those people were coming to our village,
575 sometime they visit with the family because they fam-, wa-
576 wa-, wife were Afghani. And they were coming to our
577 village. And uh they were in Jalalabad, they had small
578 business like buy car and and passing to Peshawar and like
579 this I was helping with him, because they were afraid to
580 not anybody fight with him. And maybe the people give you
581 information about that, that people, those people. But
582 those people, [pause] never were Al-Qaida. They they were
583 from uh from Lib-, and uh Algeria and Tunisia, they come,
584 they were in in in Jihad time and they uh cannot go back
585 and they were in Jalalabad when uh 9/11 happened, they were
586 very unhappy, they say, Osama bin Laden destroyed our home.
587 They were crying, okay where will we go? They- but maybe
588 the people give you information about that, but when I
589 transferred to Pakistan, and I wer, was in in Lahore I
590 working, I was working there to uh help my family, I was
591 poor people. I I came to uh to to uh to provide uh to
592 family, something, how I can provide, to Mujahideen, to to
593 they fighting against America, I don't know but I, what I
594 can explain to you and um what I say to to you to um to
595 convince you this was the uh wrong information about about
596 me.

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597 BM: The reason we ask these questions is not necessarily
598 [pause] um just to to talk again about what you did in the
599 past, but to uh get an understanding on whether you accept
600 any responsibility and whether your views have changed. So
601 it makes it more difficult for us to make that assessment
602 if we have information that contradicts um in many respects
603 the way you are characterizing what you did in Afghanistan,
604 so just want to clarify that on why I'm asking these
605 questions.

606 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

607 [Long Pause]

608 Detainee: [Speaks with PC] Okay. One thing I told you. You were
609 uh uh accused Taliban also, they help uh Al-Qaida you know,
610 and that's whats happened. You, you understand the Taliban
611 never did, tha- that but the mistake was the Taliban kept
612 uh Osama bin Laden but that uh that does not mean he was
613 the Taliban were against America. But Osama bin Laden or
614 Arabs they help Mujahideen and uh against Russian and
615 Afghan never forgot anybody to help him and then they uh um
616 uh [speaks with GTMO translator in Arabic].

617 GTMO Translator: Afghans are very loyal people, they will never
618 forget their favors that Americans helped us against the
619 Russians [Unintelligible].

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620 Detainee: And uh this was not mean Osama bin Laden wanted
621 Afghanistan and Taliban uh help him to to uh at- attack
622 America. This will uh I I don't uh believe this idea. And
623 you understand. You and and and and last you understand,
624 that the Taliban or Afghan are not Al-Qaida but Osama bin
625 Laden used land of Afghanistan but this was not, with uh
626 for example uh by help of Afghan, Afghans. This was one
627 mistake, and [pause] happened, was a big problem for
628 Afghans and for you too.

629 BM: So, in uh 1999 or 2000 or so, did you view yourself as more
630 supporting of the Taliban than Al-Qaida? Is that how you
631 are explaining your, your past conduct?

632 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

633 Detainee: And uh you know in in in fighting duration I never uh
634 side anybody. [Pause] I left Afghanistan for this. Because
635 you know uh in uh in the in this uh duration the fighting
636 time, my 5 uh uh cousins they killed in uh in our village,
637 the people killed him. Because [pause] uh I think Taliban
638 kill him they say they were working with uh with
639 government. [Pause] For this I I left Afghanistan and just
640 I I got my family's side. And I was in one side. For this,
641 when I captured and why I say [REDACTED] and they we- um
642 beating me and I choose um to go to with Americans they
643 will be release me. Because there is no any reason but I I

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644 don't know they about uh me uh, the people about him give
645 very wrong information. Like you, you are talking you say
646 for example, you help that that that, yes, this the the
647 information were they and that reason they they torture me
648 and uh black site one year, and then they send me
649 Guantanamo and 16 year, year in Guantanamo with any any
650 reason I don't know, please you think about this. How
651 Muhamad Rahim they help Al-Qaida they help Taliban too. I'm
652 not them-, I don't have any uh bi- big reason, uh source to
653 uh to to help the Taliban also and or Al-Qaida also against
654 America. I don't have any bank, I don't have any uh I have
655 small family. Uh I don't know my family was when I
656 captured, just I had, I swear by God I had five thousand
657 rupees, Pakistani rupees in my pocket and I said took from
658 me, I tell him okay please, just do not give it to my wife,
659 I uh I give to wife. [Pause] I poor guy, I don't know why
660 you uh thinking about me wrong uh.

661 BM: What is your view of the Taliban regime today and what
662 they're doing in Afghanistan?

663 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

664 Detainee: Okay. Like, uh same like you. Taliban [pause] uh you
665 cannot find any um [speaks with GTMO linguist in Arabic]

666 GTMO Translator: Replacement for

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667 Detainee: Replacement for Taliban, but you you have, we have to
668 push Taliban [pause] to open uh uh for example human rights
669 uh to open universities, school for girls if they in hijab,
670 and Islamic um education for example, with uh culture of
671 Afghanistan, yes but they have to open. Um but I know in
672 Afghanistan, you uh um the people of America they do not
673 read uh history but I am from Afghanistan. If there is an
674 Afghanistan not government that don't have stick, the
675 people don't believe uh government. You know 20 years the
676 democracy in Afghanistan in one building [laughs], one
677 side, of the lab, of the lab said I'm uh president, and the
678 other side [unintelligible] I am president. In this 20
679 years the government was divided between people. Panshir
680 was another uh presidency. There was another country.
681 Kandahar was [Unintelligible]. If there is no stick and uh
682 um strong um de-um head, that there is many problem and uh
683 I think there is no any um instant of Taliban any to to
684 bring another [Unintelligible] for example, if Taliban you
685 take him today who you bring again- again here? Same people
686 will be coming start again fight again but Taliban right
687 now. For example [unintelligible] they doing very nice job.
688 They stopped, cannot anybody in the in the one one feet in
689 Afghanistan cannot anybody to to grow uh any drug for
690 example opium, poppy, or for example hasish, or anything.

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691 And uh also they control, there is can not anybody to for
692 example publish uh uh um to establish any training uh
693 center for example to attack anybody. Uh coun- um, Taliban
694 is promising that I think, but the the main problem is the
695 human rights like for example the the female and uh I think
696 if for example the uh Europe, when countries in the world,
697 they come to Taliban and they open the bases and they push
698 for example [speaks with GTMO translator in Arabic].

699 GTMO Translator: Political solution for all the

700 Detainee: Political solution for that. Because uh we

701 experienced fighting 20 years and I think will be enough.

702 And after that to me we have to, to uh uh the political

703 solution for to find a political solution for that.

704 [Pause]

705 BM: Okay, so my last question, going back to uh one of your

706 ideas, is to start a food truck um if you are transferred,

707 but if if you think about, ideally where would you like to

708 see yourself five years after being transferred, and you

709 know, how would you get to that to that um, you know where

710 would, you know ho- how, like whether it's a food truck or

711 something else, have you thought about, you know where you

712 would like to be you know five years after your transfer,

713 whether it's [REDACTED] or some other country?

714 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

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715 Detainee: Okay, um please, I have I have uh a question for you.

716 Uh, have you know about my any uh report about my uh
717 health?

718 BM: We have information about your health.

719 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

720 Detainee: You, what you have please little, tell me about.

721 [Pause]

722 BM: Yeah, I don't, can you explain to me how that's relevant? I
723 was just trying to get a sense what you have in mind in
724 doing after you're transferred, like to get to where you
725 want to be five years after you're transferred, whether
726 it's operating a food truck or something else, like just
727 what your life plan would be and what you've thought about
728 in that regard?

729 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

730 Detainee: Okay, uh just I want to tell you about my health. [REDACTED]

731 [REDACTED]

732 [REDACTED]

733 [speaks with GTMO translator].

734 GTMO Translator: [REDACTED]

735 Detainee: [REDACTED] I have uh five cases, maybe anytime. [REDACTED]

736 [REDACTED] the doctor told me, you have to be under uh

737 strong uh uh [speaks with GTMO translator in Arabic]

738 GTMO Translator: Watch for health

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739 Detainee: Watch for health. And uh for example, if today you
740 release me and say to go to Afghanistan, I would choose
741 Guantanamo because right now um I am under focus under
742 doctor because all the time they do [REDACTED]
743 [REDACTED]
744 [REDACTED] that will be detected.
745 And but I want to be in place, there is little uh because
746 in Afghanistan, there is, you know Afghanistan, like
747 desert, there is no any uh health uh something. I want to
748 be in a place there is uh for example if I want to stay and
749 after five years, I think I will be under [speaks with GTMO
750 translator in Arabic].

751 GTMO Translator: In my grave

752 Detainee: In my grave because this five uh cases I have. If
753 release me or not, I will die here [laughs] or I will go
754 there, I will die but not uh I will not stay long because I
755 have uh strong health problem. I talking with you right now
756 but I have a lot of problems. I cannot sleep or something
757 but hamdiallah.

758 [Long pause]

759 BM: Uh Rahim, you told uh you told us you were just an
760 interpreter for Al-Qaida. Can you help us understand what
761 it meant to be an interpreter? Did you help Al-Qaida people

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762 talk to each other or help the people who were not Al-
763 Qaida?

764 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

765 Detainee: No my job was in uh city uh hospital for example
766 there is any uh ill, take them to hospital or for example
767 for uh grocery shopping in uh Kandahar city or in
768 Jalalabad, this is why my job. Uh maintenance of cars and
769 trucks, in uh in uh that was my job.

770 BM: Did you hear Al-Qaida talking among themselves about
771 America? Maybe?

772 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

773 Detainee: Uh no I I was uh out from the door, you know there is
774 was inside Arabs, outside interpreters or uh for example
775 the guards, Afghani drivers, they was outside. We were
776 outside. When they were coming, going to uh to shop-
777 shopping, they would come outside and we would take with
778 them and go to to uh, to the city for shopping. I never saw
779 him, they talking between uh each other and because they
780 were Arabs and Arabs with Arabs, don't need for uh to um
781 translation.

782 BM: Did you have any idea what Al-Qaida was?

783 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

784 Detainee: You know, Afghanistan, uh destroyed in Russia war,
785 and there is uh uh in Afghanistan nobody want [laughs] know

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786 Al-Qaida just they known him as Arab Mujahadeen because
787 they stayed with [Unintelligible]. When 9/11 happened, the
788 people uh just heard from BBC, uh Pashtu service and wise
789 of America view um about Al-Qaida. They tracking Al-Qaida
790 and Osama bin Laden and uh at that time the people got
791 information in Arab about Al-Qaida, but uh before there is
792 no newspaper in Afghanistan, no television, no there was
793 like desert, there is very little information, very little
794 because just Arab Mujahideen and after 9/11 happened, the
795 uh um the people know Al-Qaida's um started the name of Al-
796 Qaida, but for Arabs.

797 [Pause]

798 BM: I'm asking, the people did not know, but you're you're
799 saying that you also did not know anything about Al-Qaida?

800 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

801 Detainee: At that time, uh um that was the name of Al-Qaida,
802 just was Arab Mujahideen in in inside we never uh thought
803 they, they talking about for example they enemy for
804 anybody.

805 BM: Okay, thank you.

806 [Long Pause]

807 PM: Anybody else?

808 [Long Pause]

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809 PM: That concludes questions for you from the Board Members.
810 Rahim, a transcript of today's hearing may be posted to the
811 Periodic Review Secretariat's website. Do you wish to have
812 this posted? If yes, why? If no, why not?
813 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]
814 Detainee: Think yeah, I want to publish everything, if they
815 broadcast right now is better.
816 PM: Personal Representative and Private Counsel, do you have
817 any final questions for Rahim?
818 PC: Yes sir, thank you.
819 Detainee: uh, yes
820 PM: Um, Personal Representative and Private Counsel, you may
821 proceed with your questions for the detainee.
822 PC: Thank you. [Pause] Rahim, uh you were asked about
823 interpreting uh for the group which became known as Al-
824 Qaida. What languages did you interpret between?
825 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]
826 Detainee: Arabic, Pashtu, Arabic.
827 [Pause]
828 PC: When, uh you also mentioned that there were inside people
829 and there were outside people. Could you explain what you
830 meant?
831 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

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832 Detainee: The inside there, the Arab people were. And the
833 outside was for example, the labor like uh interpreter,
834 driver, and uh uh guards they open the door and close the
835 door. And outside we had a group and we were there. [Pause]
836 And out, they mean outside, yes.

837 PC: Between 1996 and 1999 when you worked for the Arab
838 Mujahideen who [pause] were also called Al-Qaida. Did they
839 call themselves Al-Qaida?

840 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

841 Detainee: We never heard, heard this name at the time.

842 PC: When the people who are inside Al-Qaida um or the Arab
843 Mujahideen spoke to each other, when the leadership spoke
844 to each other, what language did they speak to each other
845 in?

846 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

847 Detainee: I don't know, they were inside and outside, [laughs]
848 how I understand them?

849 [Pause]

850 Detainee: [Unintelligible]

851 [Pause]

852 PC: Did, [pause] did, was there any call for interpretation
853 into Pashtu uh by the inside people when they spoke to each
854 other?

855 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

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856 Detainee: Outside just when, when shopping or something like
857 this, not between any person by person, no never like this.

858 PC: Okay, another topic. Rahim, have you ever personally
859 committed an act of violence against an American or
860 coalition member?

861 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

862 Detainee: Never, not.

863 PC: Other than generally supporting the organization, did you
864 have any role in the planning or execution of the attacks
865 on 9/11?

866 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

867 Detainee: No, never I did, this was uh um uh [Arabic]

868 GTMO Translator: This was a calamity, if I knew, I wouldn't
869 have even say anything, but no I never helped them. I never
870 [Unintelligible].

871 PC: So is it fair to say you condemn the attacks on 9/11?

872 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

873 Detainee: Of cour-, Sure, yes.

874 PC: New topic. Um, you mentioned um the [pause] uh importance
875 of the Taliban opening their educational system to girls
876 and women. Uh, you have daughters, is that right?

877 Detainee: Yes, uh, I have two daughters and they pass high
878 school but they uh, they waiting for university and it
879 closed.

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880 PC: If the Taliban opened their university system to women,
881 would you support you daughters uh being educated in the
882 university system?

883 Detainee: Yes, this would be my first job to do it.

884 PC: In 2020, the United States and the Taliban signed a peace
885 treaty, which was implemented in 2021. Do you support that
886 peace treaty?

887 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

888 Detainee: Very strongly.

889 PC: You were asked a question um by one of the board members
890 about uh where you would like to be in 5 years, did, and
891 then you talked about health care. Um were you saying that
892 you would like to be in a country with an advanced health
893 care system?

894 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

895 Detainee: System, yes, yeah, because of I have strong health
896 problems.

897 PC: And finally, have you had any disciplinary violations in
898 Camp 7 or Camp 5 in the last 5 years?

899 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

900 Detainee: No, never happened like this. I was friendly from
901 first uh, I don't know why they sometime they put
902 something, but not before 5 years, and from 16 years, I am
903 very friendly with everybody.

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904 PC: So, in the last five years, you haven't had any
905 disciplinary violations? Is that correct?

906 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

907 Detainee: No, no, before, [unintelligible] after long time.

908 PC: Thank you, no further questions Sir.

909 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

910 [Long Pause]

911 PM: Do members of the Board have any additional questions in
912 light of the Personal Representative or Private Counsel's
913 questions?

914 BM: I just have one additional question.

915 PM: Okay.

916 BM: Rahim, you said that you uh had never uh conducted any acts
917 of violence against coalition or US forces, have you ever
918 told other people you committed acts of violence or hurt
919 people in coalition forces?

920 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

921 Detainee: Never, because I don't like to do wrong that. After,
922 after Russian invasion and uh they left Afghanistan and uh
923 uh the communist regime fell in Afghanistan, at that time I
924 put my [Unintelligible] on the floor and I never uh after
925 that did any any violence and not anybody to go fight or
926 anybody they enjoying with their, their wives, and they
927 tur- turn the people, go you fight. This not equal you

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928 know. I believe the people like this. I never did that.

929 [Pause] I don't like that.

930 [Pause]

931 BM: Thank you. [Long Pause] Oh, I meant to ask this question
932 earlier, what is your view, what was your view of Osama bin
933 Laden?

934 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

935 Detainee: Uh, you know Osama bin Laden was uh um a billionaire
936 of Soviet uh guy. And he came in nineteen uh uh eighties
937 and uh he spent million of uh dollars in on Mujahideen. And
938 they spent time, his time in in Afghanistan uh Mujahideen.
939 Everybody was uh respect him. There is nobody to say Osama
940 bin Laden bad guy but after 9/11, they did. They brought
941 catast-, catastrophe to Afghanistan and after that, don't
942 like him people because 50 years fighting, destroying
943 Afghanistan for one man, but this is was uh a big uh
944 problem for Afghans.

945 BM: Right, you said they thought he was a bad guy after 9/11,
946 what did you think after 9/11?

947 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

948 Detainee: Yeah, this my idea, this is my uh my. I am talking
949 from my, uh me in Afghan, people also, but uh this is my
950 idea because uh uh this is uh not the wisest not um
951 solution for the problems, but uh we, when they they did

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952 something, we left our village, our life of 16 years, year
953 and uh and the the problem fo- for they, this is uh not
954 easy something too, for example, you forget that. This was
955 problem for [unintelligible] and they brought to
956 Afghanistan, to me and everybody.

957 [Pause]

958 BM: Okay.

959 [Long pause]

960 BM: Anyone else? [long pause] Uh, Rahim, do you have anything
961 further you wish to say?

962 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

963 Detainee: Thank you very much. If you have more questions, I
964 am, I am here.

965 PM: Muhammad Rahim (ISN 10029), this concludes your
966 participation in this hearing. The Board will continue in a
967 classified session. Your Personal Representative and
968 Private Counsel will remain, and continue to advocate on
969 your behalf.

970 HQ Translator: [Translates above].

971 Detainee: Okay, thank you very much. I hope this will be my, my
972 last PRB inshallah. And I will be released please, yes.
973 This is my request for you. And you think about because we
974 um are uh poor people. And uh I think my captivity in uh uh
975 in a a [speaks with GTMO translator]

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976 GTMO Translator: Staying here

977 Detainee: Staying here, I think will be not good, please. We

978 are Afghan, we don't like don't uh uh uh hurt America. We

979 li- we like him, we say for example, we say our friends.

980 Please this is my request for you. And you think about my

981 release. And uh thank you very much, yes.

982 PM: The Board will deliberate to determine whether continued

983 law of war detention is warranted. You will be advised of

984 the results.

985 HQ Translator: [Translates above]

986 PM: All members please remain seated until further instructed

987 by the Case Administrator.

988 HQ Translator: [Translates above]

989 CA: We will take a short recess and prepare for the remaining

990 session. Time now, uh 1105.

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