

PERIODIC REVIEW BOARD FULL HEARING, 09 FEB 2017
OMAR MOHAMMED ALI AL-RAMMAH , ISN 1017
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OPENING STATEMENT

Members of the Board, thank you for the opportunity to meet with you this morning. I am the Personal Representative for detainee 1017, who goes by the name of Zakaria. I took over this case shortly after Zakaria's last board in July of 2016. Zakaria has been an active participant in this process and is here today to answer questions raised by the last board: his family connections; his support system upon release; his plans to put Guantanamo behind him and become a contributing member of society.

Zakaria is a moderate Muslim who denounces violence, death and destruction caused by radicals. He enjoys western movies, sports and video games. He is continuing his education at GTMO by studying mathematics and English, and plans to continue his studies in Business upon his release. His goal is to gain the skills and raise the necessary capital to open a cafe. He plans to work part time, while attending university, to raise capital. His café will offer several types of coffee, a game room and perhaps a hooka bar. This type of venture is very popular in Saudi Arabia, where Zakaria hopes to be sent, however, he feels that this type of establishment would thrive anywhere in the world.

Zakaria's family has committed to assist him in gaining the necessary education and training to make this venture a success. Additionally, the family has offered both the emotional and monetary support necessary for Zakaria's transition. His family is highly educated and well traveled. Since learning that Zakaria was still alive, they have had several family meetings and developed a thorough plan to include having a family member by Zakaria's side, regardless of where he is transferred to. The initial plan is to have Zakaria's mother by his side while other family members rotate bimonthly.

Zakaria is one of the better behaved detainees and has had very few behavioral problems during his detention. He is described as calm and quiet by camp staff (guards and medical), and other PRS staff and myself have found this type of behavior to be true.

Zakaria has shared with me his desire to support himself, take care of his mother, and eventually start a family. He feels a strong need to make up for all that he put his mother through and is hopeful that the Board will see that he is a changed man.

I do not feel that Zakaria represents a continuing or significant threat to the United States and I think he is a good candidate for repatriation. The love and support of his family will greatly assist Zakaria in his transition.