

25 September 2018

Periodic Review Board  
c/o Periodic Review Secretariat  
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Washington, DC 20301-1000

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**RE: Subsequent Full Review of Saifullah Paracha (ISN 1094)—PC Statement of Counsel**

Esteemed Periodic Review Board Members,

My name is Shelby Sullivan-Bennis and it is my privilege to represent Mr. Saifullah Paracha in this proceeding.

I can say without hesitation that Mr. Paracha is grateful beyond words for your approval of his last File Review and the opportunity that you have thus given him to demonstrate that he poses no threat to the security of our country.

Mr. Paracha has endured the last 15-plus years in custody with what can only be described as interminable grace. In the government's own declassified documents, he is described as one of the, if not the most peaceful of detainees, amassing fewer infractions since capture than there are detainees left in this prison.

Described by GTMO staff as "respectful," and "polite," he has made a name for himself as both the prison professor and its indefatigable uncle. He has spent his time, these late years of his life, teaching other men how to read, how to speak English, and how to start and run businesses of their own.

More declassified government reports provide support for the assertion that Mr. Paracha holds no extremist views, as he has not espoused a single one in all the years of his captivity.

As far back as thirty years ago, he chose to send all of his children to private Christian schools, eventually encouraging them to move to and be educated in the United States. Years before that, Mr. Paracha petitioned for multiple family members to immigrate to the U.S., where they remain today, each with their own vibrant family. And with the support that family and of Reprieve, if released, Mr. Paracha could quite easily live out the remainder of his years with his loved ones.

No one thinks that Mr. Paracha has "violent extremist" views or wishes for harm to befall America or its people; Mr. Paracha's own nephew, [REDACTED] stood literal feet from the Twin Towers as they fell, his marketing job having been just around the corner.

But all of this information is known and has been for years. What's different today is that a middle-aged man has become an elderly one, and naturally, with the years of that transition comes increased internal reflection as his time to do so slips by.

It is not outrageous to consider that Mr. Paracha could die in this prison without ever seeing his family again. It is the reality of that sentence that commands the kind of deep analysis of a life lived that I know Mr. Paracha has been performing. I won't attempt to speak for him, but he is prepared to do so himself today, and I ask only that you listen, keeping at the forefront of your mind the life he has lived these last 15 years.

Very Truly Yours,

Shelby Sullivan-Bennis  
Reprieve US