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CA: This periodic review board is being conducted at 0905 hours on 26 February 2019, with regard to the following detainee: Sharqawi Abdu Ali Al Hajj (*Shar-Qa-Wee Ab-doo Ali Al-Hajj*) (ISN 1457).

CA: As a reminder, the unclassified portions of these proceedings are being recorded for the purpose of generating a transcript to be posted on the PRS website.

CA: Representatives from the following agencies are present and are members of the Board:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE; AND,

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF.

The following personnel are also present:

LEGAL ADVISOR TO THE BOARD

CASE ADMINISTRATORS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE; AND,

SECURITY OFFICER

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CA: The detainee's Personal Representative is located at the detention facility, U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. He is attending via video teleconference. The detainee has chosen not to attend. Private counsel is unable to attend, but has submitted a statement. These documents have been posted to the Periodic Review Secretariat website. This session is being observed by foreign, national and local media; Foreign Government Officials and Representatives from Non-Governmental Organizations.

PM: This Board is convened to determine whether continued law of war detention is warranted for Sharqawi Abdu Ali Al Hajj (*Shar-Qa-Wee Ab-doo Ali Al-Hajj*) (ISN 1457) to protect against a continuing significant threat to the security of the United States. From here on forward, we will refer to the detainee as Sharqawi (*Shar-Qa-Wee*). This session of the hearing is unclassified.

PM: This is the Periodic Review Board to determine whether continued law of war detention is warranted in Sharqawi's (*Shar-Qa-Wee's*) case. Continued law of war detention will be warranted if it is necessary to protect against a continuing significant threat to the national security of the United States. The focus of this hearing is on the threat Sharqawi (*Shar-Qa-Wee*) may pose to the United States and its interests if transferred or released from U.S. custody. It is not on the lawfulness of his detention.

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PM: The Personal Representative is Sharqawi's (*Shar-Qa-Wee's*) representative to assist during this process.

PM: Personal Representative, has the detainee had an opportunity to review the Unclassified Summary?

PR: Yes, Sir.

PM: Thank you. I will now read the unclassified summary:

Sharqawi Abdu Ali Al Hajj (*Shar-Qa-Wee Ab-doo Ali Al-Hajj*) (YM-1457) a.k.a. Riyadh the Facilitator, is a career jihadist who was closely tied to several senior al-Qa 'ida members, including Usama Bin Ladin and Khalid Shaykh Muhammad (KU-10024), and who acted as a prominent financial and travel facilitator for al-Qa 'ida operations, although he may not have had foreknowledge of the plots. He facilitated the movement of fighters from Yemen to Afghanistan before 9/11, operated a guesthouse in Karachi, and funneled Saudi donations to al-Qa 'ida once coalition operations began, according to military reporting.

PM: Does the Personal Representative wish to make an unclassified Opening Statement at this time?

PR: Yes, Sir.

PM: I would like to remind all participants that any information shared at this time must be unclassified. If there is a concern about the classification of the information, I will indicate

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such and will stop the proceedings until we have resolve the issue. Has the detainee had the opportunity to review your statement, as well as the private counsel?

PR: Yes, Sir.

PM: Great, thank you. Personal Representative, please proceed.

PR: Good morning esteemed members of the Board. I am the Personal Representative to Sharqawi Abdu Ali Al Hajj, ISN 1457. Since my appointment as his Personal Representative, I have attempted to meet Sharqawi on thirteen separate occasions. Unfortunately, each scheduled meeting has resulted in a refusal to participate on his part. As fruitless as my efforts may appear, I have been able to maintain an open line of communication with his Private Counsel. She encourages him to attend my meetings during their phone conversations or through written communique. Despite our combined efforts, Sharqawi has refused to participate in the PRB process. He has stated through his Private Counsel that there is nothing more he can do with his case, citing that nothing has changed since his last Full Review in February of 2017. His Private Counsel has provided a written statement on his behalf that outlines his current disposition.

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PR: I remain steadfast in my attempts to meet with Sharqawi in order to provide the Board with substantial information that may lead to his release or transfer.

PM: Thank you. The Private Counsel's opening statement has been received and reviewed by the Board. As the Private Counsel is unable to attend today's board, their opening statement will be available on the PRS website for public review.

PM: Does any member of the Board have a question for the Personal Representative at this time?

PM: Okay. With no questions, this concludes this portion of the hearing. I ask that all remain seated until further instructed by the Case Administrator.

CA: We will now take a 15-minute recess to prepare for the remaining sessions.

[The public session closed at 0913, 26 February 2019.]

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ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYM KEY

BM: BOARD MEMBER  
CA: CASE ADMINISTRATOR  
PC: PRIVATE COUNSEL  
PM: PRESIDING MEMBER  
PR: PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

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