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1 CA: This Periodic Review Hearing Board is being conducted at  
2 0906 hours, on 23 March 2021 with regard to the following  
3 detainee: Abd Al-Salam Al-Hilah (ISN 1463). As a reminder,  
4 the unclassified portions of these proceedings are being  
5 recorded for the purpose of generating a transcript to be  
6 posted on the PRS website.


7 DC Translator: *[Translates above]*

8 CA: Please stand by for technical difficulties... we just lost  
9 them again. GTMO, sound check?

10 GTMO: We have you loud and clear.

11 CA: We just lost visual? 

12 

13  Representatives from the following agencies are  
14 present and are members of the Board: Department of  
15 Defense, Department of State. Department of Justice,  
16 Department of Homeland Security, Office of the Director of  
17 National Intelligence and Office of the Chairman of the  
18 Joint Chiefs of Staff. The following personnel are also  
19 present: Legal Advisor to the Board, Case Administrators,  
20 Personal Representative, Private Counsel, translators, the  
21 detainee, and the Security Officer.

22 DC Translator: *[Translates above]*

23 CA: The detainee's Personal Representative, the detainee, and  
24 translator are located at the detention facility, U.S.  
25 Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. They are attending via  
26 video teleconference. The Private Counsel is also attending  
27 via video teleconference due to logistical challenges. The  
28 detainee has waived translation of the unclassified  
29 summary, the Personal Representative's statement, and the  
30 Private Counsel's statement. The unclassified summary has  
31 been posted to the Periodic Review Secretariat website.  
32 Foreign, national and local media; Foreign Government

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33 Officials; and Representatives from Non-Governmental  
34 Organizations may be observing this session.

35 DC Translator: [*Translates above*]

36 PM: This Board is convened to determine whether continued law  
37 of war detention is warranted for Abd Al-Salam Al-Hilah  
38 (ISN 1463) to protect against a continuing significant  
39 threat to the security of the United States. From here  
40 forward, we will refer to the detainee as Abdul Salam.  
41 This session of the hearing is unclassified.

42 DC Translator: [*Translates above*]

43 PM: Abdul Salam, this is your Periodic Review Board to  
44 determine whether continued law of war detention is  
45 warranted in your case. Continued law of war detention will  
46 be warranted if it is necessary to protect against a  
47 continuing significant threat to the national security of  
48 the United States. The focus of this hearing is on the  
49 threat you may pose to the United States and its interests  
50 if transferred or released from U.S. custody. It is not on  
51 the lawfulness of your detention.

52 DC Translator: [*Translates above*]

53 PM: The Personal Representative and Private Counsel are your  
54 representatives to assist you during this hearing.  
55 Finally, the translators ensure that everyone understands  
56 your statements and that you understand what is being said  
57 during the hearing.

58 DC Translator: [*Translates above*]

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

61 DC Translator: [*Translates above*]

62 PR: Yes, Sir.

63 GTMO Translator: [*Translates above*]

64 PM: Thank you. I will now read the UNCLASSIFIED SUMMARY:

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65 Abd Al-Salam Al-Hilah (ISN 1463) was a prominent extremist  
66 facilitator who used his position within the Yemeni  
67 Political Security Organization to provide refuge and  
68 logistic support to al-Qa'ida and other extremist groups.  
69 He had unspecified ties to Usama bin Laden and may have  
70 played a role in the attack on the USS Cole in October  
71 2000. Al-Hilah was detained in Egypt in September 2002 and  
72 transferred to Joint Task force - Guantanamo Bay (JTF-GTMO)  
73 in September 2004. Does the Personal Representative wish to  
74 make an unclassified Opening Statement at this time?

75 DC Translator: *[Translates the question above]*

76 PR: Yes, Sir.

77 GTMO Translator: *[Translates above]*

78 PM: I would like to remind all participants that any  
79 information shared at this time must be unclassified. If  
80 there is a concern about the classification of the  
81 information, I will indicate as such and will stop the  
82 proceedings until we resolve the issue.

83 DC Translator: *[Translates above]*

84 PM: Has the detainee had the opportunity to review your  
85 statements?

86 DC Translator: *[Translates above]*

87 PR: Yes, Sir.

88 GTMO Translator: *[Translates above]*

89 PM: Personal Representative, please proceed.

90 DC Translator: *[Translates above]*

91 PR: Honorable Board Members, thank you for the opportunity to  
92 provide a statement on behalf of Abd Al-Salam Al-Hilah in  
93 hopes of securing a recommendation for transfer from  
94 Guantanamo Bay. Although Abdul Salam has felt disheartened  
95 by the results of his previous boards, he continues to  
96 participate in the PRS process in hopes of leaving

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97 Guantanamo Bay. Abdul Salam is cooperative and attends all  
98 scheduled meetings. He consistently expresses appreciation  
99 for both my assistance and that of his private counsel.  
100 Prior to his detainment, Abdul Salam was a man who loved  
101 God, his family, and his country. He had great ambitions  
102 that allowed him to excel as a business man and tribal  
103 leader while also providing an opportunity to gain the  
104 respect of Yemeni political leaders. Today, his only desire  
105 is to be reunited with his family and make up for lost  
106 time. Abdul Salam supports peaceful coexistence and  
107 believes that he - that should be reflected in our daily  
108 interactions with one another, regardless of race, gender,  
109 or religion. He does not support acts of violence against  
110 innocent people and does not condone terrorism for any  
111 reason. He has consistently expressed disdain for Al-Qaeda  
112 and does not support the group's ideology. Mutual respect  
113 is very important for Abdul Salam and his expectation of  
114 respect does not make him a criminal or threat to the  
115 United States. Indeed, he has demonstrated compassion and  
116 caring towards those less fortunate in many of our  
117 conversations. Above all else, Abdul Salam maintains that  
118 he never had any intentions to harm the United States, its  
119 allies, or the people of Western Democracies. In all our  
120 meetings, I have never seen an indication that he would be  
121 a threat to the United States or its allies. He is eager to  
122 answer any questions the Board may have. Thank you for your  
123 time and consideration.

124 PM: Thank you. Due to the current uh global health pandemic,  
125 the PC has been unable to travel to GTMO and participate in  
126 the unclassified portion of this hearing. As a result, the  
127 PC's statement will be available for review during the  
128 classified session.

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129 DC Translator: [*Translates above*]  
130 PM: Board Members may reserve questions until detainee and  
131 witness statements have been presented in their entirety.  
132 However, does anyone have questions at this particular  
133 time?  
134 DC Translator: [*Translates above*]  
135 PM: With no questions, this concludes this portion of the  
136 hearing. I ask that all remain seated until further  
137 instructed by the Case Administrator.  
138 DC Translator: [*Translates above*]  
139 CA: We will take a short recess to prepare for the remaining  
140 sessions. Time now 0918.  
141 DC Translator: [*Translates above*]