

PERIODIC REVIEW BOARD FULL HEARING, 04 AUG 2015
MUHAMMED ABD AL RAHMAN AWN AL SHAMRANI, ISN 195
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OPENING STATEMENT

Good morning ladies and gentlemen of the Board. We are the Personal Representatives of Muhammad Abd-al Rahman Bin A'wan Al-Shamrani. We will be assisting Mr. Al-Shamrani this morning with his case, aided by Martha Rayner, Clinical Associate Professor of Law at Fordham University.

Mr. Al-Shamrani has spent the last 13 and one-half years in detention at Guantanamo Bay. During this time he has endured the death of his father and witnessed from afar the decline of his mother into old-age and poor health. Mr. Al-Shamrani, himself, has slipped quietly into middle-age under detention.

As the Board is aware, this is Mr. Al-Shamrani's second Periodic Review Board. Mr. Al-Shamrani declined to participate in his first PRB, although he did correspond via letter with his Personal Representatives and submitted his reasons for non-participation to the Board. The Board recommended, in its determination statement recommending his continued law of war detention, that Mr. Al-Shamrani pursue certain courses of action that would be beneficial to him. After reflecting on the Board's recommendations and seeking the counsel of his family members, he decided to heed the advice of the Board. Specifically, he engaged in dialogue with the delegation representing the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and has fully engaged in the Periodic Review Process since his previous Board. He has maintained a record of perfect attendance for meetings with his Personal Representatives and counsel.

A number of Mr. Al-Shamrani's traits have impressed us throughout our interactions over the past year:

- Candor – He has proven exceedingly forthright and honest in his interactions with us. He is in no way one who will simply “tell you what want you want to hear”.
- Civility – He has never failed to be anything less than polite and professional during his interactions and discussions with us.
- Insight – He is a thinker who is reflective throughout any discussions he engages in.

Later, Mr. Al-Shamrani will discuss both his past life and his desire for a better life for himself and his family in the future.

We are confident that Mr. Al-Shamrani's desire to pursue a better way of life if transferred to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is genuine. He is very eager to pursue the curriculum offered by the Kingdom's Muhammad Bin Nayef Center for Counselling and Care.

We remain convinced that the risk, if any, posed by Mr. Al-Shamrani to the security of the United States will be more than adequately mitigated by the Bin Nayef program and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Thank you for your time and attention. We are pleased to answer any questions you have throughout this proceeding.

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MUHAMMED ABD AL RAHMAN AWN AL SHAMRANI, ISN 195
PRIVATE COUNSEL OPENING STATEMENT

July 1, 2015

Dear Periodic Review Board Members,

Thank you for providing me with an opportunity to represent Mr. al-Shimrani before you.

And thank you for granting Mr. al-Shimrani a second PRB after determining that a significant question is raised as to whether Mr. al-Shimrani's continued detention is warranted.

Mr. al-Shimrani was taken into United States military custody at age 26. He was among the first men to be transferred to Guantanamo in January of 2002. He has spent the vast majority of his young adult life detained at Guantanamo—over thirteen and a half years. He is now 40 years old.

I have represented Mr. al-Shimrani pro bono for nine years, since 2006. He has always communicated appreciation and respect for my work on his behalf.

At the first Periodic Review Board, you concluded that detention remained necessary because of Mr. al-Shimrani's past conduct, his "problematic" behavior since being imprisoned, and, since Mr. al-Shimrani did not attend the prior hearing, the Board's inability to assess his current mindset. You encouraged him to fully participate in any future review and meet with any representatives of Saudi Arabia who might come to Guantanamo.

Mr. al-Shimrani has fully complied with the Board's requests. He has participated in preparing for this hearing and will fully participate in today's hearing by responding to any questions you may have. Mr. al-Shimrani has met numerous times with me and the Personal Representatives during which he has exhibited patience, openness and full cooperation in responding to our many, probing questions. Mr. al-Shimrani [REDACTED] [REDACTED] has expressed his willingness to participate in their well-regarded reintegration and rehabilitation program. [REDACTED]

This response to the Board's directives demonstrates a commitment on Mr. al-Shimrani's part to engage seriously with this process and with his future. I can assure you, having represented Mr. al-Shimrani for nine years, he is true to himself. He does not take advice or engage in a course of action unless he can engage in it sincerely and transparently. His decision to engage in this

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process and answer your questions is genuine on his part. He wants to return to his home country and focus on his family and building a peaceful life.

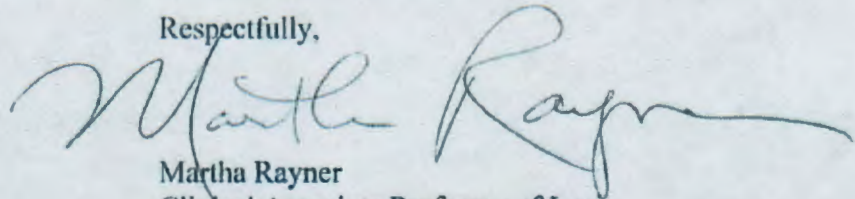
As to Mr. al-Shimrani's past, he will address that in his statement to you. The core point he wishes to convey is that he is committed to moving on. He wishes to put his past behind him. Both his conduct that led to his imprisonment here and the many years of indefinite detention.

Mr. al-Shimrani welcomes participation in Saudi Arabia's well established reintegration program, which has been endorsed by the U.S. government and replicated in other countries. This program is designed to be complemented by family support. Mr. al-Shimrani has strong family support. He has three brothers, four sisters, a maternal uncle who has been an integral part of his immediate family since the death of Mr. al-Shimrani's father in 2007, and an aging mother with health problems. His family has pledged to support his reintegration home. They will provide him with a home, support in establishing employment and beginning a family of his own.

Mr. al-Shimrani will discuss his future plans in his personal statement to you. His plans are concrete and feasible, especially in light of the resources Saudi Arabia is able to provide as part of its reintegration program and in light of the moral support Mr. al-Shimrani's family has pledged to provide.

The pieces are in place to assure that Mr. al-Shimrani will not pose a significant threat to our country in the future. His transfer to Saudi Arabia--a strong U.S. ally-- will assure the mitigation of risk through its reintegration program and continued monitoring.

Respectfully,



Martha Rayner
Clinical Associate Professor of Law
Fordham University School of Law