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CA: This periodic review board is being conducted at 0924 hours on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August 2015, at the Periodic Review Secretariat headquarters, with regard to the following detainee: Muhammed Abd Al Rahman Awn Al-Shamrani, ISN 195.

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. 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**

**THE OFFICE OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF.**

The following personnel are also present:

**LEGAL ADVISOR TO THE BOARD;**

**CASE ADMINISTRATORS;**

**PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES;**

**PRIVATE COUNSEL;**

**TWO TRANSLATORS;**

**THE DETAINEE; AND,**

**THE SECURITY OFFICER.**

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The detainee's personal representatives, private counsel, the detainee, and one translator are located at the detention facility, U.S. Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. They are attending via teleconference. This session is being observed by national and local media and representatives from non-governmental organizations.

**[Case administrator conferring with translator one.]**

TRANS 1: **[Translation of above.]**

**[Presiding member conferring with translator one.]**

PM: This Board is called to order. This Board is convened to determine whether continued law of war detention is warranted for Muhammed Abd Al Rahman Awn Al-Shamrani, ISN 195, in order to protect against a continuing significant threat to the security of the United States. From here forward we will refer to the detainee as Muhammed.

TRANS 1: **[Translation of above.]**

**[Presiding member conferring with translator one.]**

PM: This Periodic Review hearing session is unclassified. Classified documents and classified discussions relating to classified information shall not be presented or discussed during this unclassified session of the hearing.

TRANS 1: **[Translation of above.]**

PM: Muhammed, this is your periodic review board to determine whether continued law of war detention is warranted in your case.

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Your continued law of war detention will be warranted if such detention 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 you may pose to the United States and its interests if transferred or released from U.S. custody, and not on the lawfulness of your detention.

TRANS 1: [Translation of above.]

PM: The personal representatives and private counsel are your representatives to assist you during this process. Finally, the translators ensure that everyone understands your statements and that you understand what is being said during the hearing.

TRANS 1: [Translation of above.]

PM: Personal representatives and private counsel, has the detainee had an opportunity to review the Unclassified Summary?

TRANS 1: [Translation of above.]----

PR 1: Wait, wait for the translator.

TRANS 1: [Translation of above.] Now say it.

PR 2: Yes, ma'am.

PM: All right. I will now read the Unclassified Summary:

Muhammed Abd Al Rahman Awn Al-Shamrani, ISN 195, a Saudi al-Qa'ida recruiter and fighter, almost certainly remains committed to supporting extremist causes, and has continued to incite other detainees against the detention staff at Guantanamo. Since February

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2014, he has indicated possible plans to reengage in terrorist activity, and he has followed the news of ISIL's growing threat in Iraq and Syria with apparent interest. He has shared little additional insight into his post-transfer plans, and there are no indications that he has communications with extremists outside of Guantanamo.

TRANS 1: [Translation of above.]

PM: Do the personal representatives and private counsel wish to make unclassified opening statements at this time?

TRANS 1: [Translation of above.]

PR 2: Yes, ma'am, we will make a statement.

PM: All right. I would like to remind all the participants that information shared at this time must be unclassified. If there is a concern with classification of the information, I will indicate so and will stop the proceedings until we resolve the classification issue.

TRANS 1: [Translation of above.]

PM: Has the detainee had the opportunity to review the PRs' and PC's opening statements?

TRANS 1: [Translation of above.]

PR 2: Yes ma'am, he has.

TRANS 1: [Translation of above.]

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PM: All right. Personal representatives, you may proceed with your opening statements.

TRANS 1: **[Translation of above.]**

PR 2: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen of the Board. We are the personal representatives of Muhammed Abd Al Rahman Awn Al-Shamrani. We will be assisting Mr. Al-Shamrani this morning with his case. We will be 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 the middle-age under detention.

TRANS 2: **[Translation of above.]**

PR 2: 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 were beneficial to him. After reflecting on the Board's recommendations and seeking the counsel of his family members, he

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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 the previous Board. He has maintained a record of perfect attendance for the meeting with his personal representatives and his counsel.

TRANS 2: **[Translation of above.]**

PR 2: A number of Mr. Al-Shamrani's traits have impressed us throughout our interaction 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 just tell you what want you want to hear. Civility - He has never failed to be anything less than polite and professional during his interaction and discussion 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.

TRANS 2: **[Translation of above.]**

PR 2: We remain convinced that the risk, if any, posed by Mr. Al-Shamrani to 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. Can I please answer any questions you have throughout the proceedings.

PM: All right. Private counsel, you may proceed with your opening statement.

PC: 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-Shamrani's continued detention is warranted. Mr. Al-Shamrani was taken into U.S. 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.

TRANS 2: **[Translation of above.]**

PC: I have represented Mr. Al-Shamrani 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-Shamrani's past conduct, his problematic behavior since being imprisoned, and, since Mr. Al-Shamrani 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 to meet with any representatives of Saudi Arabia who might come to Guantanamo.

TRANS 2: **[Translation of above.]**

PC: Mr. Al-Shamrani 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-Shamrani 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 and probing questions. Mr. Al-Shamrani has expressed his willingness to participate in Saudi Arabia's well regarded reintegration and rehabilitation program.

This response to the Board's directives demonstrates a commitment on his part to engage seriously with this process and with his future. I can assure you, having represented Mr. Al-Shamrani 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 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-Shamrani'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.

TRANS 2: [Translation of above.]

PC: Mr. Al-Shamrani welcomes participation in Saudi Arabia's well established reintegration program, which has been endorsed by our country, the U.S. government, and replicated in other countries. This program is designed to be complemented by family support. Mr. Al-Shamrani 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 his 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.

TRANS 2: [Translation of above.]

PC: Mr. Al-Shamrani 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 his family has pledged to provide.

The pieces are in place to assure that Mr. Al-Shamrani 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

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mitigation of risk through its reintegration program and continued monitoring. Thank you.

TRANS 2: [Translation of above.]

PM: All right. Thank you.

Board members may reserve questions until the detainee statement has been presented in its entirety and for a classified session. But, do board members have any questions for personal representatives or private counsel in this session?

TRANS 1: [Translation of above.]

[No verbal response from the board members.]

PM: All right. With no questions, this concludes this portion of the hearing. I'd ask that everyone remain seated until further instructed by the case administrator.

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

[The public session closed at 0953, 4 August 2015.]

[At this point, the unclassified portion of the hearing ended.]

[END OF PAGE]

**ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYM KEY**

BM: BOARD MEMBER  
DET: DETAINEE  
PC: PRIVATE COUNSEL  
PM: PRESIDING MEMBER  
PR 1: PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE ONE  
PR 2: PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE TWO  
TRANS 1: TRANSLATOR ONE (LOCATED AT PRS HQ)  
TRANS 2: TRANSLATOR TWO (LOCATED AT GUANTANAMO BAY)