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1 CA: This Periodic Review Board hearing is being conducted at
2 0902 hours on 16 November 2021, with regard to the
3 following detainee: Khalid Ahmed Qasim (ISN 242). As a
4 reminder, the unclassified portions of these proceedings
5 are being recorded for the purpose of generating a
6 transcript to be posted on the PRS website.

7 HQ Translator: Translates above.

8 CA: Representatives from the following agencies are present and
9 are members of the Board: Department of Defense,
10 Department of State, Department of Justice, Department of
11 Homeland Security, Office of the Director of National
12 Intelligence, and the Office of the Chairman of the Joint
13 Chiefs of Staff. The following personnel are also present:
14 Legal Advisor to the Board, Case Administrators, Personal
15 Representative, Private Counsel, Translators, the detainee
16 and the Security Officer.

17 HQ Translator: Translates above.

18 CA: The detainee's Personal Representative, Private Counsel,
19 the detainee, and translator are located at the detention
20 facility, U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. They
21 are attending via video teleconference. The detainee has
22 waived translation of the unclassified summary, the
23 Personal Representative's statement and the Private
24 Counsel's statement. The unclassified summary has been
25 posted to the Periodic Review Secretariat website. Foreign,
26 national and local media, Foreign Government Officials, and
27 Representatives from Non-Governmental Organizations may be
28 observing this session.

29 HQ Translator: Translates above.

30 PM: This Board is convened to determine whether continued law
31 of war detention is warranted for Khalid Ahmed Qasim (ISN
32 242) to protect against a continuing significant threat to

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33 the security of the United States. From here on forward, we
34 will refer to the detainee as Khalid. This session of the
35 hearing is unclassified.

36 HQ Translator: Translates above.

37 PM: Khalid, this is your Periodic Review Board to determine
38 whether continued law of war detention is warranted in your
39 case. Continued law of war detention will be warranted if
40 it is necessary to protect against a continuing significant
41 threat to the security of the United States. The focus of
42 this hearing is on the threat you may pose to the United
43 States and its interests if transferred or released from
44 U.S. custody. It is not on the lawfulness of your
45 detention.

46 HQ Translator: Translates above.

47 PM: The Personal Representative and Private Counsel are your
48 representatives to assist you during this process. Finally,
49 the translators ensure that everyone understands
50 your statements and that you understand what is being said
51 during the hearing.

52 HQ Translator: Translates above.

53 PM: Personal Representative and Private Counsel, has the
54 detainee had an opportunity to review the Unclassified
55 Summary?

56 HQ Translator: Translates above.

57 PR/PC: Yes, Sir.

58 GTMO Translator: Translates above.

59 PM: Thank you. I will now read the UNCLASSIFIED SUMMARY:
60 Khalid Ahmed Qasim (ISN-242) received basic and advanced
61 instruction at the al-Qa'ida affiliated al-Farouq training
62 camp before 9/11, possibly provided weapons training to
63 militants, and may have fought for the Taliban in or near
64 Bagram and Kabul in Afghanistan before fleeing to the Tora

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65 Bora mountains in late 2001. While he was in Afghanistan,
66 Qasim was closely affiliated with al-Qa'ida, briefly met
67 Usama Bin Ladin at Tora Bora, and possibly became a member
68 of al-Qa'ida, although during debriefings he has denied
69 joining the group, and we have no reporting that he swore
70 allegiance to Bin Ladin. He was captured while fleeing the
71 Tora Bora Mountains near Jalalabad, Afghanistan. Does the
72 Personal Representative wish to make unclassified Opening
73 Statement at this time?

74 HQ Translator: Translates above.

75 PR: Yes, Sir.

76 GTMO Translator: Translates above.

77 PM: I would like to remind all participants that any
78 information shared at this time must be unclassified. If
79 there is a concern about the classification of the
80 information, I will indicate as such and will stop the
81 proceedings until it is resolved. Has the detainee had the
82 opportunity to review your statements?

83 HQ Translator: Translates above.

84 PR: Yes, Sir.

85 PC: Yes, Sir.

86 PM: Person Personal Representative, please proceed.

87 GTMO Translator: Translates above.

88 PR: Good morning members of the board, I am the Personal
89 Representative for Mr. Khalid Ahmed Qasim, ISN 242. Khalid
90 has not been a regular participant in this review process
91 though we continue to engage him through meeting requests
92 letters in an effort to maintain contact and provide
93 preparation for the board process. While in detention,
94 Khalid has taken advantage of available educational
95 opportunities by taking numerous classes in English and
96 Spanish. He will routinely hold short conversations in

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97 English without the use of an interpreter. Khalid has
98 shown an appreciation for art and modeling. He passes his
99 time painting, sketching and creating three dimensional
100 models while in detention. With the continued support of
101 his legal team and post Guantanamo Bay reintegration
102 organizations, Khalid has the tools available to him to
103 facilitate his transition following detention. Thank you
104 for your careful deliberation and allowing this opportunity
105 to appear before the

106 PM: Private Counsel you may proceed.

107 HQ Translator: Translates above.

108 PC: Periodic Review Board Members, this statement is being
109 submitted jointly on behalf of Khalid Qasim's counsel, Shelby
110 Sullivan- Bennis, Thomas Wilner, and Mark Maher. It is our
111 privilege to represent Khalid in this process and we would like
112 to express our appreciation for the Board's willingness to
113 expedite this hearing. Together, we have represented Khalid
114 Qasim for many years and have come to know him very well. We
115 would like to use this statement as opportunity to tell the
116 Board a little about who Khalid is today, and why we believe he
117 will be successful upon release from Guantánamo. With an eye to
118 the future, it is worth describing the person that we have come
119 to know. Far from being any threat to the United States, Khalid
120 is a thoughtful and kind man, who has developed into a gifted
121 artist and writer. His humor and kindness are clear to all who
122 have met and interacted with him. Each of us has been struck by
123 how relaxed every meeting with Khalid is. Instead of a focus on
124 his case, the circumstances of his incarceration, or the past,
125 he is more often focused on knowing how his attorneys are-
126 learning about their families, their health, and their faith-and
127 looking toward the future. Khalid has used his time at
128 Guantánamo positively, developing talents and skills useful for

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129 his future life in society. Although he is never boastful,
130 Khalid is an astonishingly talented artist. His work is varied-
131 he is adept at using various mediums, and his subjects have
132 ranged from simple words against solid backgrounds to large,
133 complex displays. He has a keen understanding of light
134 and can paint incredibly effective works with very few colors.
135 Ever the hard worker, Khalid is not content with these
136 accomplishments, and frequently expresses his desire to learn
137 more and hone his skills when he is released. The fact that
138 Khalid could develop into such an accomplished artist while
139 incarcerated indicates that when he is a free man, his skills
140 will only increase. Similarly, Khalid arrived in Guantánamo
141 unable to recognize the English language and is now a fluent
142 speaker. He is not only able to speak about himself and his
143 case with ease, but poetically articulates his opinions on a
144 range of topics. His written thoughts are often full of
145 beautiful or funny turns of phrase and alliteration. It is
146 always a joy to receive a letter or call from Khalid.
147 These facts are not just admirable in themselves, they
148 demonstrate that Khalid has a real future ahead of him. Khalid
149 entered Guantánamo as one of the youngest detainees and will
150 leave with plenty of life left to live. His mastery of an art
151 form and a language and his engagement with classes in
152 Guantánamo demonstrate that he is devoted to self-improvement.
153 We believe that upon release he will not only live, but will
154 thrive. Khalid will not be alone in this endeavor. While his
155 ultimate destination is not clear, he will continue to enjoy the
156 support of his counsel, Reprieve's Life After Guantánamo
157 Project, and his family. The statements before this Board
158 demonstrate just how much Khalid's family and friends are ready
159 and willing to support him upon release. Finally, it would be
160 inappropriate to not remark on the length of Khalid's detention.

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161 He has been incarcerated for nearly 20 years, and like any
162 person, he is certainly not the same twenty-something that
163 entered Guantánamo, but a matured and educated man. He does not
164 look back in bitterness. Rather, he looks positively to the
165 future. The Khalid we know is a wise and caring man, who wants
166 nothing more than to live a fulfilling life, work at a job,
167 raise a family, and of course, paint. We hope that this Board
168 will see fit to give him this opportunity.

169 PM: Board Members may reserve questions until detainee and
170 witness statements have been presented in their entirety.
171 However, does anyone have any questions at this particular
172 time?

173 HQ Translator: Translates above.

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

177 HQ Translator: Translates above.

178 CA: We will take a short recess to prepare for the remaining
179 sessions. Time now 0916.

180 HQ Translator: Translates above

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