

18 April 2022

Periodic Review Board Members,

It is my continuing privilege to represent Khalid Qasim before this Board. I would like to express my appreciation for this Board's willingness to schedule another full hearing so close-in-time to Khalid's last Board. While we were disappointed in the last result, we hope that we can eliminate any concerns that still exist.

Since we appeared so recently, I will keep my opening comments brief, and will try to avoid repeating information this Board has already heard.

But I would be doing Khalid a disservice if I did not briefly repeat what I, and each of his representatives, has said time and again: Khalid is a good man, with a lot to offer this world. I can say on behalf of all of his counsel who have represented him for well over a decade that Khalid is an extraordinarily thoughtful, kind, and funny man. And he is humble too.

After his last Board, Khalid turned to me and quietly said that I had said too much, that my statement was too complimentary. It was amazing to me that, with his freedom on the line, Khalid was concerned first with being talked about too positively.

But I can assure you all, and Khalid as well, that everything I've said before is true. He is truly a fast learner and a uniquely talented artist. He perseveres no matter how many roadblocks are put in his way. When I and my co-counsel told him about his most-recent denial, he took the bad news in stride, thanked his counsel for our assistance, and immediately worked with us to plan for the next few months. Khalid approaches each new challenge with an even temper and realistic expectations.

After Khalid's last hearing, this Board expressed concern for Khalid's mental health. Reprieve's Life After Guantánamo Project has sought to allay these concerns. While I do not think Khalid suffers from any mental disorder that would make him a threat to anyone, I do understand that counselling is valuable for everyone, and particularly important for the formerly incarcerated. With that in mind, we have identified and presented to this Board multiple providers who have represented that they will provide Khalid with care when he is released, free of charge, regardless of where he is resettled.

We have likewise identified a number of work and educational opportunities in some of the locations where Khalid may be resettled. Of course, it is impossible to say exactly what work Khalid will do since his ultimate destination is still very unclear, but I hope the Board is satisfied that there are many options for employment, and we will work with Khalid to make sure he is able to support himself.

On this point, I would like to emphasize again that Khalid entered Guantánamo as one of the youngest detainees, and will leave with plenty of life left to live. And he has used his time wisely, mastering an art form and a language, and engaging with classes in Guantánamo. He is

obviously devoted to self-improvement and I believe that he will thrive when he is released. I am excited to be one of many people supporting him in this journey.

Finally, it would inappropriate to not again remark on the length of Khalid's detention. He has been incarcerated for nearly 20 years, and like any person he is certainly not the same twenty something that entered Guantánamo. The Khalid I know is a good man, who is ready to work, study, start a family, and of course paint.

I hope that this Board will see fit to finally give him this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Mark Maher