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1 CA: This Periodic Review Board hearing is being conducted at
2 0902 hours on 17 May 2022, with regard to the following
3 detainee: Khalid Ahmed Qasim (ISN 242). As a reminder, the
4 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 HQ Translator: [Translates above]

8 CA: Representatives from the following agencies are present and
9 are members of the Board: Department of Defense, Department
10 of State, Department of Justice, Department of Homeland
11 Security, Office of the Director of National Intelligence,
12 and the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of
13 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: Yes, Sir.

58 PC: Yes, Sir.

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 Qasim was in
66 Afghanistan, he was closely affiliated with al-Qa'ida,
67 briefly met Usama Bin Ladin in Tora Bora, and possibly
68 became a member of al-Qa'ida, although during debriefings
69 he has denied joining the group, and we have no reporting
70 that he swore allegiance to Bin Ladin. He was captured
71 while fleeing Tora Bora near Jalalabad.

72

73 Does the Personal Representative or Private Counsel wish to
74 make unclassified Opening Statement at this time?

75 HQ Translator: [Translates 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 it is resolved. Has the detainee had the
83 opportunity to review your statements?

84 HQ Translator: [Translates above]

85 PR: Yes, Sir.

86 PC: Yes, Sir.

87 Detainee: Yes.

88 PM: Okay, great. Person Representative, please proceed.

89 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

90 PR: Good morning members of the board. I am the Personal
91 Representative for Mr. Khalid Ahmed Qasim, ISN 242. Khalid
92 has been an active participant in the periodic review
93 process since his last board. He has attended all our
94 requested meetings and engaged with me and the other
95 Personal Representatives. Khalid was eager to prepare for
96 today's board and is ready to answer any of your questions.

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97
98 Khalid has made substantial improvements in learning
99 English since he arrived in Guantanamo, and we have
100 conducted meetings without the need for translation.
101 Throughout our meetings, Khalid has reflected on his
102 progress over the past year. He has made positive
103 behavioral changes, largely due to his own efforts in
104 recognizing his stressors and process ways to deal with
105 them. He has identified his artwork as a key means of both
106 expression and of coping with the challenges of his
107 detention. He told me that through creating art, he can
108 deal with the stress of his confinement and not allow it to
109 build or result in disciplinary infractions. That he
110 recognized and developed this and other successful coping
111 techniques demonstrates a level of self-examination and a
112 determination to be prepared for life outside of Guantanamo
113 Bay.

114
115 Khalid wants to resettle in an Arabic-speaking country and
116 would like to support himself by painting or by teaching
117 English. He is open to attending a rehabilitation program
118 and expressed a willingness to meet with Behavioral Health
119 services. With the continued support of his legal team, his
120 family, and Reprieve, Khalid has had, has the tools to
121 facilitate a successful and peaceful life after his release
122 from detention. Thank you for your deliberation and the
123 opportunity to appear before the board. We are standing by
124 to answer any questions.

125 PM: Private Counsel you may proceed with your opening
126 statement, if you'd like.

127 PC: Thank you. Periodic Periodic Review Board Members, it is my
128 continuing privilege to represent Khalid Qasim before this

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129 Board. I would like to huh express my appreciation for this
130 Board's willingness to schedule another full hearing so
131 close-in-time to Khalid's last Board. While we were
132 disappointed in the last result, we hope that we can
133 eliminate any concerns that still exist.

134
135 Since we appeared so recently, I will keep my opening
136 comments brief, and will try to avoid repeating information
137 this Board has already heard but I would be doing Khalid a
138 disservice if I did not briefly repeat what I, and each of
139 his representatives, has said time and again: Khalid is a
140 good man, with a lot to offer this world. I can say on
141 behalf of all of his counsel who have represented him for
142 well over a decade that Khalid is an extraordinarily
143 thoughtful, kind, and funny man and he is humble too.

144
145 After his last Board, Khalid turned to me and quietly said
146 that I had said too much, that my statement was too
147 complimentary. It was amazing to me that, with his freedom
148 on the line, Khalid was concerned first with being talked
149 about too positively but I can assure you all, and Khalid
150 as well, that everything I've said before is true. He is
151 truly a fast learner and a uniquely talented artist. He
152 perseveres no matter how many roadblocks are put in his
153 way. When I and my co-counsel told him about his most-
154 recent denial, he took the bad news in stride, thanked his
155 counsel for our assistance, and immediately worked with us
156 to plan for the next few months. Khalid approaches each new
157 challenge with an even temper and realistic expectations.

158
159 After Khalid's last hearing, this Board expressed concern
160 for Khalid's mental health. Reprieve's Life After
161 Guantánamo Project has sought to allay these concerns.

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162 While I do not think Khalid suffers from any mental
163 disorder that would make him a threat to anyone, I do
164 understand that counselling is valuable for everyone, and
165 particularly important for the formerly incarcerated. With
166 that in mind, we have identified and presented to this
167 Board multiple providers who have represented that they
168 will provide Khalid with care when he is released, free of
169 charge, regardless of where he is resettled.

170
171 We have likewise identified a number of work and
172 educational opportunities in some of the locations where
173 Khalid may be resettled. Of course, it is impossible to say
174 exactly what work Khalid will do since his ultimate
175 destination is still very unclear, but I hope the Board is
176 satisfied that there are many options for employment, and
177 we will work with Khalid to make sure he is able to support
178 himself.

179
180 On this point, I would like to emphasize again that Khalid
181 entered Guantánamo as one of the youngest detainees, and
182 will leave with plenty of life left to live. And he has
183 used his time wisely, mastering an art form and a language,
184 and engaging with classes in Guantánamo. He is obviously
185 devoted to self-improvement and I believe that he will
186 thrive when he is released. I am excited to be one of many
187 people supporting him in this journey.

188
189 Finally, it would inappropriate to not again remark on the
190 length of Khalid's detention. He has been incarcerated for
191 nearly 20 years, and like any person he is certainly not
192 the same twenty something that entered Guantánamo. The
193 Khalid I know is a good man, who is ready to work, study,
194 start a family, and of course paint. I hope that this Board

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195 will see fit to finally give him this opportunity. Thank
196 you.
197
198 PM: Board Members may reserve questions until detainee and
199 witness statements have been presented in their entirety.
200 However, does anyone have any questions at this particular
201 time?
202 HQ Translator: [Translates above]
203 PM: With no questions, this concludes this portion of the
204 hearing. I ask that all remain seated until further
205 instructed by the Case Administrator.
206 HQ Translator: [Translates above]
207 CA: We will take a short recess to prepare for the remaining
208 sessions. Time now 0916.
209 HQ Translator: [Translates above]

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