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CA: This Periodic Review Board is being conducted at 0906 hours on 7 June 2016, with regards to the following detainee: Abdul Latif Nasir, ISN 244.

As a reminder, the unclassified portion of these proceedings is being recorded for the purpose of generating a transcript to be posted on the PRS website.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

CA: 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,**

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

The following personnel are also present:

**LEGAL ADVISOR TO THE BOARD;**

**CASE ADMINISTRATORS;**

**PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE;**

**PRIVATE COUNSEL;**

**TWO TRANSLATORS;**

**THE DETAINEE; AND,**

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**SECURITY OFFICER.**

TRANS 1: **[TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]**

CA: The detainee's Personal Representative, Private Counsel, the detainee, and one translator are located at the detention facility, U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. They are attending via video teleconference and the detainee waived translation of the unclassified summary, and Personal Representative's and Private Counsel's opening statements. These documents have been posted to the Periodic Review Secretariat website. This session is being observed by national and local media, and representatives from non-governmental organizations.

TRANS 1: **[TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]**

PM: Good morning. This Board is convened to determine whether continued law of war detention is warranted for Abdul Latif Nasir, ISN 244, to protect against a continuing significant threat to the security of the United States. From here forward, we'll refer to the detainee as Nasir, and this session of the hearing is unclassified.

TRANS 1: **[TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]**

PM: Nasir, this is your Periodic Review Board to determine whether continued law of war detention is warranted in your case. Continued law of war detention will be warranted if it's necessary to protect against a continuing significant threat to the national

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security of the United States. The focus of this hearing is on the threat that you may pose to the United States and its interests, if transferred or released from U.S. custody. It is not on the lawfulness of your detention.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: The Personal Representatives [sic] and Private Counsel are your representatives to assist you in this process. And finally, the translators are here to ensure that everybody understands your statements and that you understand what is being said during your hearing.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: Personal Representatives [sic] and the Private Counsel, has the detainee had an opportunity to review the unclassified summary?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR: Yes, Ma'am.

PC: Yes, Ma'am.

[VTC TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES AT 0911 HOURS, 7 JUNE 2016]

[VTC RECONNECTED AT 0914 HOURS, 7 JUNE 2016]

PM: All right. So, Personal Representatives [sic] and Private Counsel, has the detainee had an opportunity to review the unclassified summary?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

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PR: Yes, Ma'am.

PC: Yes, Ma'am.

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: All right. Thank you. I'll read the unclassified summary:

Abdul Latif Nasir, ISN 244, fought for several years with the Taliban on the front lines in Kabul and Bagram, Afghanistan, and again at Tora Bora, as commander... as a commander and weapons trainer. He had been a conservative Muslim member of a non-violent but illegal Moroccan Sufi Islam group, Jamaat al... al... excuse me... Jamaat al Adl Wa al-Ilhassan [sic], in the 1980s, and was recruited to fight in Chechnya by a member of the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group in 1996, while working at one of Osama bin Laden's charcoal production companies in Sudan.

Nasir traveled to Yemen on his way to Chechnya, but was rerouted to Afghanistan in 1997 to receive training in weapons, topography, and explosives at an al-Qaeda camp. Nasir became a weapons trainer at al-Farouq training camp and a member of the al-Qaeda training subcommittee. He had occasional access to senior al-Qaeda members, including Osama bin Laden.

Nasir led a retreat from Jalalabad, Afghanistan, to Tora Bora, Afghanistan, in late 2001 and acted in a leadership role at Tora Bora during fight... during fighting against U.S. forces.

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Nasir has committed a low number of disciplinary infractions compared to other detainees and most of his infractions have been failures to comply with Guantanamo guard force orders. He was cooperative with interrogators early on in his detention, but later retracted many of his statements about his extremist activities and has refused to meet with interrogators or discuss his past since September 2007, with the exception of one session in September 2011.

Because Nasir has not met with interrogators for several years, we lack insight into his current mindset and whether he would pursue extremist activity after detention. Nasir has not expressed extremist views against U.S. citizens, but almost certainly resents the United States government and those he sees as responsible for his prolonged detainment. Nasir has defended fighting jihad in certain circumstances and supports Sharia law, which could make transfer and integration into a non-Muslim country difficult. Nasir has had no contact with former Guantanamo detainees or individuals involved in terrorism-related activities, while at Guantanamo, and maintains close contact with his family in Morocco. Nasir would almost certainly prefer a transfer to Morocco to be with his family, who are willing and able to financially assist him.. assist him with his reintegration into society.

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Do the Personal Representatives [sic] and Private Counsel wish to make a statement, at this time?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR: Yes, Ma'am.

PC: Yes, Ma'am.

PM: All right. I'd like to remind everyone that information shared at this time, must be unclassified. If there's a concern about classification of information, I will indicate as such and stop the proceedings until we resolve the issue. Has Nasir had an opportunity to review your statements?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR: Yes, Ma'am.

PC: Yes, Ma'am.

PM: All right. Personal Representative, please proceed.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR: Members of the Board, I am the Personal Representative for Abdul Latif Nasir, ISN 244. I will assist... assisting Nasir with his Private Counsel this morning, and I can sincerely state that Nasir is considered to be a thoughtful, intelligent, and kind man by his fellow detainees. He is very grateful to have this opportunity to have his case heard today.

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Nasir is eager to begin this process in hopes to begin his life and move forward. As such, his time in Guantanamo Bay has been sent... been spent wisely. For example, he attended many classes offered as... such as English, Math and Computer Science. But his appetite for... for continuing to learn does not stop there. He continues to learn through his own self-education. He has created a 2,000 word English Arabic dictionary, hand written, that he uses daily to practice his English language skills. While somewhat shy, he still manages to speak to those in English in an effort to better his skills, whenever possible. In my meetings with him, we rarely used a linguist to communicate. He understands and writes in English very well. He also reads books and watches movies in English frequently.

Nasir is an educated man, with a high school equivalent education and one additional year at the collegiate level. Nasir concentrated his studies in Math and Science and for a short time, he studied at a technical institute. Computer Science is an area of most interest to Nasir and he hopes to work in that field in the future. However, he knows that computer science is constantly evolving and it will take some time to learn everything required to find employment. In the meantime, Nasir is willing and prepared to work for his brother's business in order to start a future in the right direction. He is patient and understands that his time lost

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has created a hurdle that can only be overcome with hard work and determination.

Nasir has been a client... a compliant detainee while at Guantanamo, taking advantage of communal living. Therefore, he has allowed himself to become more exposed to various cultures and religious backgrounds. Nasir feels that this cultural exposure has aided in his understanding of various viewpoints of allowing him to better appreciate others' customs and beliefs. Of course, this will only help to serve him while he... with his transition into the next phase of his life.

Nasir deeply regrets his actions of the past. I am very confident that Nasir has a strong desire to put this unfortunate period of his life behind him and move on. Nasir will seek to reintegrate in society, marry, and have a family of his own. Nasir has not only made... has not made negative comments or expressed any ill will towards the United States nor displayed any evidence of interest in extremist activities.

I appreciate your time in this matter and your consideration for a transfer recommendation.

PM: Thank you. Private Counsel, you may proceed with your unclassified opening statement.

TRANS 1: **[TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]**

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PC: Esteemed Periodic Review Board Members, my name is Shelby Sullivan-Bennis. It is my privilege to represent Abdul Latif Nasir to appear before this Board today. I do so in conjunction with my fellow Private Counsel, Thomas Anthony Durkin, founding partner of Durkin and Roberts.

Over the course of many years, our lawyers at Reprieve have gotten to know Mr. Nasir quite well and based on that long experience, we can say a few things about him without reservation.

That Nasir is an introspective, intelligent, and kind-hearted man who, after all this time, seeks only to return to a family that is ready to receive him back and has been consistently... which has been consistently demonstrated over the years. It is not a picture manufactured for the benefit of this Periodic Review Board today... as today's hearing date has approached, nor has his behavior changed radically since the widespread improvement in camp conditions that took place in early 2009. Instead, as the materials before this Board demonstrate, these personal traits and the strong support of his family have been on consistent display over the years he spent here in Guantanamo.

Mr. Nasir has come a long way since he was sold for a bounty into American captivity back in 2002, having never experienced U.S. or Western culture. One small iteration of how far he has come are

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the pleasant meetings that... in English that I, as a female attorney, have enjoyed with Mr. Nasir. He once knew no English and his culture would not have permitted him to meet with a female lawyer. Over the years, he has learned English, and also learned to work with and respect me.

His disciplinary status at Guantanamo has been compliant. He's allowed all privileges and has presented eagerly, helpfully, and gratefully to all meetings with his Private Counsel and Personal Representative.

Mr. Nasir loves and excels at the myriad courses of which he has taken advantage in his time at Guantanamo. With a background in math and science, he naturally excels in Computer Science and Life Skills courses, but he's also developed a very good understanding of English. He meets with me entirely without the assistance of an interpreter, and we are able to communicate complex details quite well. In the event of confusion, he has always been patient with me.

Mr. Nasir has, famously, across the whole prison base, drafted... drafted his very own 2,000 word English to Arabic dictionary, by hand, a sample of which is included in our submission. Since arrival at Guantanamo, Mr. Nasir has made a continuing effort to use this opportunity to further learn and integrate and he has inarguably succeeded at both.

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If released from Guantanamo, Mr. Nasir intends to begin full-time work at his older brother's very successful water treatment company in Morocco, surrounded by a supportive and stable family. Mr. Nasir's brother owns and runs a company that installs water treatment systems for swimming pools and other external, internal pools and water features. The company has both commercial and private clients, and the majority of their business comes from installing pools in Moroccan hotels. His brother has stated in his submissions before the Board, and multiple times over the years, that he is prepared and eager to train Mr. Nasir to be a water treatment engineer and give him a job working with him at his company.

He will live with his family in their five-bedroom home in Casablanca, and will have ready access to several local service providers, including medical and psychological health facilities based in Casablanca with whom my office has direct contracts for provision of services to our clients.

Indeed, Mr. Nasir's entire family has resided legally in Morocco for decades and is well established. His family support network in Morocco is strong and his two brothers, five sisters, three nieces, and four nephews all stand willing and able to support Mr. Nasir's reintegration into Morocco, physically, economically, and emotionally. He has been in regular contact with them through video

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calls facilitated by the Red Cross. As the letters, videos, and photographs we have submitted to the Board attests, the members of his extended family and community have been ready and eager to receive him back throughout the length of his detention, and they remain so today.

The family has provided ample evidence to the Board, in written and video-recorded form attesting to their readiness to welcome and support Mr. Nasir. The videos feature ten members of Mr. Nasir's family currently living in Morocco, all offering their considerable resources in support of his return. He will not be welcomed by one or two people, but a household full of stable, working family to help reintegrate him into society and give him purpose.

From Reprieve's combined experiences with over three dozen repatriated and resettled Guantanamo prisoners, we have concluded that the most important factor which detainees... which former... which determines former detainees' success in life is family support. Team members have met the newborn babies of many of the men we have worked with and watched as they have re-focused their lives on parental responsibilities and bringing up their children as best they can. The extent and nature of the support that Mr. Nasir's family is prepared to provide set the ideal conditions for his release.

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We have a program set up to help our clients reintegrate into society called *Life After Guantanamo*, which is funded by the United Nations. This is a program that serves the interests of each relevant stakeholder. The client needs the help, and we, the United States, want the client to do well. For several clients who were resettled and repatriated by both administrations, we worked with the State Department and host governments on transition plans for clients. We have visited clients multiple times after release. We have served as an ongoing point of contact for local authorities. We have facilitated financial support and referrals for needs ranging from job placement to mental health care. We were a trusted and experienced resource in facilitating a successful transition for these clients, who are now rebuilding their lives. A number of former Reprieve clients have even successfully pursued higher education at universities, after leaving Guantanamo. Finally, as mentioned, we have specific experience working on... with groups on the ground in Morocco. We would, of course, offer the same assistance to Mr. Nasir.

Thank you for taking into consideration the information that we have provided. We respectfully submit that Mr. Nasir should be approved for transfer from Guantanamo consistent with the President's

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mandate to close the prison. I remain at your disposal to assist with any questions you may have regarding Mr. Nasir.

PM: Board Members may reserve questions until detainee and witness statements have been presented in their entirety. Does anyone have a question, at this time?

**(NON-VERBAL RESPONSE FROM BMs)**

TRANS 1: **[TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]**

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

TRANS 1: **[TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]**

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

TRANS 1: **[TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]**

**[The public session closed at 0928, 7 June 2016.]**

**[END OF PAGE]**

ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYM KEY

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