

PERIODIC REVIEW BOARD SUBSEQUENT HEARING, 14 JUNE 2016
HAROON AL-AFGHANI, ISN 3148
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OPENING STATEMENT

Good morning ladies and gentlemen of the Board. We are the Personal Representatives of ISN 3148. We will be assisting Asadullah Haroongul this morning with his case.

Since our initial notification, Haroon has attended all meetings with us and has earnestly participated in the Periodic Review Process. Based on our interaction with Haroon as well as the way he talks about his daughter and her education, it is very apparent that he does not possess hard-line extremist ideals, especially with regards to women

Haroon has conducted himself in a professional and patient manner throughout all engagements with his Personal Representatives. His study of the English language in the past four years made our meetings very productive. He has a proven history of relatively compliant behavior while detained at Guantanamo. He has also been compliant in his engagement with the Joint Task Force Medical Staff in order to deal with multiple health issues. This teamwork has improved his quality of life.

He has taken advantage of many of the opportunities for education and personal enrichment while detained at Guantanamo. These opportunities include courses in English, Nutrition, and Art.

Haroon is fortunate to have a very supportive family remaining in Pakistan and England comprised of his spouse, daughter, father, mother, brother and three sisters. His family members and the town elders have pledged unwaivering financial support, a place of residence, and assistance with employment during his transition to the utmost of their ability.

Subsequently, Haroon will discuss both his past and his desire for a better life for himself in the future. He is open to transfer to any country, but if given his choice, he would prefer to be transferred to Europe. Even though he himself is a Muslim, he has no problem integrating with anyone of any religion. We do believe that Haroon's desire to pursue a better way of life if transferred from Guantanamo is genuine and that he does not represent a continuing or significant threat to the security of the United States of America.

Thank you for your time and attention. We are pleased to answer any questions you have throughout this proceeding.

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PERIODIC REVIEW BOARD INITIAL HEARING, 14 JUNE 2016
HAROON AL-AFGHANI, ISN 3148
PRIVATE COUNSEL OPENING STATEMENT

Esteemed Periodic Review Board Members:

My name is Shelby Sullivan-Bennis. It is my privilege to represent Haroon al-Afghani and to appear before this Board today.

Haroon has come a long way since he arrived at Guantánamo many years ago. He has taken advantage of many of the courses offered and excelled in all of them. He has been compliant during his time in detention and has enjoyed all of the privileges that accompany his status.

Having completed a two-year university program in economics and mastered five different languages, Haroon is more able than most to begin a productive and peaceful life upon release. He wants nothing more than to return to his wife and daughter, whom he feels immensely guilty for having left to fend for themselves. It is his feeling of responsibility to support them that will lead the charge of his search for a better life.

Uniquely, Haroon has not had the benefit of an attorney for the duration of his time here at Guantánamo. Where Reprieve, as *habeas* attorneys for other detainees, has been able to orchestrate successful inter-governmental communication and placement, Haroon has had only the support of his family to vie for his welfare.

I start now, at quite the late date, on a quest to provide Haroon with the support he should have gotten years ago—enhancing his quality of life, facilitating family, as well as governmental communication, and most importantly, organizing for his release. This is a great undertaking, but Reprieve is likely the best-placed organization for the task.

With affiliate offices in both Pakistan—where Haroon's wife and daughter live—as well as London—where his sister and her family live—Reprieve is uniquely situated to offer the utmost support to Haroon in his resettlement. We have represented over sixty Guantánamo detainees and our UN-funded "Life After Guantanamo" program has provided on-the-ground support to 38 former detainees and their families (in many cases, we visit the former detainees in-country post release to help them adjust to their new surroundings).

In 2015 alone, we visited 17 former detainees and family members in their home or host countries, working with them and the local government on social integration issues. We consider it our continuing duty to forge relationships with local authorities and non-governmental organizations to provide them with the services they need, and we stand ready to do the same for Haroon.

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Thank you for taking into consideration the information we have provided. We respectfully submit that Haroon al-Afghani should be approved for transfer from Guantánamo, consistent with the President's mandate to close the prison.

Very Truly Yours,

Shelby Sullivan-Bennis
Reprieve US

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shelby Sullivan-Bennis". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a light blue rectangular stamp.

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