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1 CA: This Periodic Review Board is being conducted at 0911, on
2 18 August 2020 with regard to the following detainee:
3 Haroon al-Afghani (ISN 3148). 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 Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
13 The following personnel are also present: Legal Advisor to
14 the Board, Case Administrators, Personal Representative,
15 translators, the detainee and the Security Officer.

16 HQ Translator: *Translates above.*

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

27 HQ Translator: *Translates above.*

28 PM: Good morning, this Board is convened to determine whether
29 continued law of war detention is warranted for Haroon al-
30 Afghani (ISN 3148) to protect against a continuing
31 significant threat to the security of the United States.

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32 From here on forward we will refer to the detainee as
33 Haroon. This session of the hearing is unclassified.

34 HQ Translator: *Translates above.*

35 PM: Haroon this is your Period Review Board to determine
36 whether continue law of war detention is warranted in your
37 case. Continued law of detention will be warranted if it is
38 necessary to protect against the continuing significant
39 threat to the national security of the United States. The
40 focus of this hear is on your threat, the threat you may
41 pose to the United States and its interest if transferred
42 or released from U.S. custody. It is not on the lawfulness
43 of your detention.

44 HQ Translator: *Translates above.*

45 CA: The Personal Representative is your representative to
46 assist you during this process. Finally, the translator
47 ensure that everyone understand your states and that you
48 understand what is being said during this hearing.

49 HQ Translator: *Translates above.*

50 PM: Personal Representative has the detainee had an opportunity
51 to review the unclassified summary?

52 HQ Translator: *Translates above.*

53 PR: Yes, Sir.

54 HQ Translator: *Translates above.*

55 PM: Thank you. I will now read the UNCLASSIFIED SUMMARY: Haroon
56 al-Afghani (ISN 3148) was a Hezb-e Islami Gulbuddin (HIG)
57 commander who organized and led attacks against coalition
58 forces in Afghanistan and served as a link between senior
59 Al-Qaeda members and other anti-coalition fighters. He was
60 a courier for Al-Qaeda military commander 'Abd al-Hadi al-
61 Iraqi (ISN-10026) until 2003 or 2004, provided logistic
62 support to fighters aligned with Al-Qaeda and HIG, and
63 probably collaborated on operational matters with leaders

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64 of other anti-coalition groups. Does the Personal
65 Representative wish to make unclassified Opening Statement
66 at this time?

67 HQ Translator: *Translates above.*

68 PR: Yes, Sir.

69 GTMO Translator: *Translates above.*

70 PM: I would like to remind all participants that any
71 information shared at this time must be unclassified. If
72 there is a concern about the classification of the
73 information, I will indicate as such and will stop the
74 proceedings until we resolve the issue. Has the detainee
75 had the opportunity to review your statements?

76 HQ Translator: *Translates above.*

77 PR: Yes, Sir.

78 GTMO Translator: *Translates above.*

79 PM: Personal Representative, you may now proceed.

80 HQ Translator: *Translates above*

81 PR: Thank you. Honorable Board Members, thank you for the
82 opportunity to provide a statement on behalf of Haroon al-
83 Afghani in hopes of securing a recommendation for release.
84 Haroon has impressed upon me his desire to be reunited with
85 his family. He expressed his respect for all people,
86 regardless of religion, gender, or country of origin.
87 During our meetings, Haroon has stressed that he is not a
88 threat to anyone and wishes only to see peace in
89 Afghanistan. As his daughter was only three months old at
90 the time of his capture and is now thirteen, he is eager to
91 help provide for his family and play a role in her
92 upbringing going forward. As the only remaining Afghan
93 detainee, he feels isolated and would be very appreciative
94 of the board's favorable recommendation. In our
95 interactions, he has appeared genuine and sincere in his

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96 desire to answer all questions posed by the board in a
97 truthful manner. He also stressed that he was never a
98 member of Al-Qaeda and can only tell the truth when
99 questioned about this. At this time, and based on a review
100 of his previous statements and those submitted by others on
101 his behalf, I have no reason to believe that he is a
102 continued threat to the United States and see no reason not
103 to recommend his release. His previous PR has also
104 submitted a supplemental statement for your review, which
105 expresses the same sentiment. Thank you for your time and
106 consideration.

107 PM: Board Members may reserve questions until detainee and
108 witness statements have been presented in their entirety.
109 However, does anyone have any questions at this particular
110 time?

111 HQ Translator: *Translates above.*

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

115 HQ Translator: *Translates above.*

116 CA: We will take a short recess to prepare for remaining
117 sessions. Time now 0921.