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CA: This Periodic Review Board is being conducted at 0905 hours on 1 November 2016, with regard to the following detainee: Salman Yahya Hassan Mohammad Rabei'i, ISN 508.

As a reminder, the unclassified portions of these proceedings are 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 vidi... via video teleconference and the detainee waived translation of the unclassified summary, Personal Representative's and Private Counsel's opening statements. These documents have been posted to the Periodic Review website. This session is being observed by foreign, national, and local media; foreign government officials; and representatives from non-government associations [sic].

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: Good morning. This Board is convened to determine whether continued law of war detention is warranted for Salman Yahya Hassan Mohammad Rabei'i, ISN 508, to protect against a continuing significant threat to the security of the United States. From here forward, we'll refer to the detainee as Salman. This session of the hearing is unclassified.

TRANS 1: [BEGINS TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

(PM MUTES AUDIO TO CONFER WITH TRANS 1 ABOUT TRANSLATION)

TRANS 1: [FINISHES TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

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PM: Salman, 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 is necessary to protect against a continuing significant threat to the national security of the United States. The focus of this hearing is on the threat 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 during this process. Finally, translators ensure that everybody understands your statements and that you understand what is being said during the hearing.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

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

TRANS 1: [BEGINS TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]...

PR: Yes, Ma'am.

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

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

Salman Yahya Hassan Mohammad Rabei'i, ISN 508, was recruited by his brother Fowza [sic], an al-Qaeda operative, and traveled to Afghanistan in August 2001 where he received training from al-Qaeda and possibly fought in Tora Bora before his capture. During his time at Guantanamo, Salman has been mostly compliant, although his behavior changed between late 2015 and May 2016 because of frustration over his Periodic Review Board status. Salman continues to provide limited details about his plans should he be released from detention, although he wishes to reunite with his Yemen-based family and would like to move with them to wherever his new location may be. Several of his family members are involved in or sympathetic to extremist activities and could afford him potential paths to reengagement.

Do the Personal Representatives [sic] or Private Counsel wish to make an unclassified opening statement at this time?

TRANS 1: [BEGINS TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

(PM MUTES AUDIO TO CONFER WITH TRANS 1 ABOUT TRANSLATION)

TRANS 1: [FINISHES TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR: Yes, Ma'am.

PC: Yes, Ma'am.

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

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

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR: Yes, Ma'am.

PC: Yes, Ma'am.

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PM: All right. Personal Representative, please proceed.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen of the Board. I am the Personal Representative for Mr. Salman Rabei'i. I would first like to thank the Board for allowing Salman this second opportunity to appear before you and to show you that he is more than willing to cooperate in this process and to provide complete and honest answers to all of your questions. He deeply regrets following the bad advice he was given by others during his initial board and has no intention of wasting your time, or another opportunity to show that he really does not pose any threat to anyone, and that he does not harbor any extremist beliefs or ideology.

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Since his initial Board, Salman has obtained a new Private Counsel who has provided him with...

[VTC lost audio at 0915 hours, 1 November 2016]

PR: ... One hundred percent honest with the Board in order for his current mindset to be determined. Salman fully understands, and he is very grateful for this second chance. The support that Reprieve can provide for him in the future is also very great benefit; and I think this might possibly help to alleviate at least some of the Board's concerns with regards to Salman's future.

His PC, Shelby, has had an opportunity to meet with strom... Salman's family in the UK and can attest first hand that in addition to the support her company can offer, his family is quite capable and willing to support him in any way necessary, regardless of where he ni... may be transferred. While many of the detainees I have represented have agreed that they would be willing to be transferred anywhere, I think that Salman is one of best equipped to adjust to a culture and language outside of an Arab-speaking country. He is very open-minded towards other cultures and has a very good grasp of the English language, and is constantly working to improve his skills. I believe he could also quickly learn any other language if need be, and he is

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very... as he is very intelligent and inquisitive and loves to learn.

It has now been a little over a year and a half since I first met Salman and in all of our many meetings, he has shown nothing but kindness and respect and not once has he shown any sign of hatred or resentment towards America or Westerners in general. He has also made it quite clear that he will have nothing to do with anyone who shows any signs of extremists beliefs, even if that person were to be a member of his own family. Salman truly regrets his own past decisions, and if approved for transfer, he will take full advantage of a second chance to live an honest peaceful life and teach his future children to do the same.

I strongly believe that Salman is not a threat to the security of the United States and hope that the Board will agree based on the information we have presented, and even more importantly, on Salman's answers here today.

PM: Private Counsel, you may proceed with your unclassified opening statement. Sorry, the trans...

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PC: Esteemed Periodic Review Board Members, my name is Shelby Sullivan-Bennis, and it is my privilege to represent Mr. Salman Rabei'i in this proceeding. First, I would like to

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express my gratitude, on behalf of Salman and myself, for the opportunity to... of this full hearing.

As Salman's Personal Representative has said, we very strongly believe that there have been variety of material changes to Salman's case that warrant this full review, and you will find that Salman is eager to use this opportunity to answer questions that may have been left unanswered in his first Board.

Among the changes that are relevant to this Board is his representation. The fact of new counsel comes with it the promise of post-release support that Salman otherwise lacked. As Reprieve's client, Salman will be the beneficiary of our "Life After Guantanamo" program, which provides a host of vital support mechanisms that carry our clients through the stages of re-integration. For several clients who were resettled and repatriated by both Administrations, we worked closely with the State Department and host governments on transition plans for clients; we have served as an ongoing point of contact for local authorities; and have facilitated financial support and referrals for needs ranging from job placement to mental health care.

Stepping in suddenly for former counsel at the time of Salman's review, I had the chance to meet neither Salman nor his family before making my submissions. Since that date, I have

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visited with both multiple times, and as a result, have a much better sense of which resources might be needed upon his resettlement, and which will be unnecessary.

Salman arrived at Guantanamo when he was only 22. He sits before you today a 37-year-old man, the majority of his maturing having been done inside these walls. As with many of my clients, he has taught himself English from scratch. I will say that of those clients, Salman's language proficiency is the best. This comes as no surprise when you understand his background. When I met with one of his sisters living in the UK, she told me that... repeatedly that education was uniquely prized in his family, and that theirs was the only in the village in which each child - male and female - had gone to college. Though Salman was not able to finish, his education continued here at Guantanamo. You will have seen in his file review submission, pages upon pages of meticulously written homework assignments, mostly self-delegated - English phrases repeated over and over, translated and conjugated back and forth. Our intent in submitting these was not to misuse your precious time, but to show you how dedicated Salman is - a trait that will serve him well in application to a new trade in learning new life skills upon release.

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Salman has an impressive network of family to provide both emotional and financial support, wherever he is resettled. He has five siblings living stable, peaceful lives in three different countries. In the words of his sister, "'he has five moms,' - referring to his four sisters and mother - 'Anything, anything, he needs, he will have it. He will not need any help. We will help him.'" I can personally attest to his family's ability to help Salman get on his feet financially, and I will speak more to that end in a separate submission.

I think you will recall from having met him last year, that Salman is a respectful and reserved man. At the risk of embarrassing him, I will go as far as to call him shy. Given his small number of infractions and demonstrated ability to get along with guards and prisoners alike, I strongly believe that the Board's concerns do not lie in his behavior while in detention, nor in his personal capacity to find gainful employment - given his language skills and young age - but rather his alleged affiliations. We are confident that we can resolve those concerns in other submissions and in this hearing today.

Thank you for taking into consideration the information we have provided. We respectfully submit that Salman poses no

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threat to the security of the United States, and as such, should be approved for transfer from Guantanamo.

PM: Thank you. Board Members may reserve questions until the 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: All right. 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 0922, 1 November 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)