

**PERIODIC REVIEW BOARD FULL HEARING, 08 NOV 2016
YASSIM QASIM MOHAMMED ISMAIL QASIM, ISN 522
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OPENING STATEMENT**

Members of the Board, Good Morning. I have been the Personal Representative for Yassin Qassim Mohammed Ismail Qasim for the last year. During that time, I have been able to get to know Yassin and I have seen changes in his demeanor as he moved into communal living almost a year ago.

When I first met Yassin, he stated hopelessness was the reason for his non-compliance. But, while I know he still worries and desperately wants to go home, there is a definitive change in his demeanor. After receiving a negative final determination, there is always a possibility that a detainee can fault the process. But, Yassin did not change for the negative but instead, he wanted to know what he could do to improve himself. He was not trying to mark off checkboxes, but something in him had changed. In my opinion, the change in Yassin came from taking Art classes. As he took to heart the final determination recommendation, to take advantage of educational opportunities, he found an area he was passionate about and one that he excelled in. While I know he still worries about his detention, his personality has opened up over the last year becoming a more relatable person. This makes for easy conversations that have allowed me to get to know him.

Yassin is an intelligent man who has spent much of his time as described during his first board, reading books. He has an interest in medicine and health, which was discovered in GTMO because there was not an opportunity in the years prior to his arrival here. When he ponders on a subject, he considers the larger picture and therefore, he does not jump to a quick answer but is objective about how one step affects the next. Sometimes, his answers are long because he is going through how each facet can affect an outcome. But, this is just part of his personality. Since he has made the move into communal living and enrolled in classes, you can see how opening his mind to education and Art has brought him joy and actually changed him for the better. He is actively planning for a way to support himself to become a functional part of society in hopes that he will be transferred from GTMO. He was unable to do this in the past, because it was hard to see a future.

As Yassin looks to the future, his family will continue to be supportive as they have showed their love over the years. They have vowed ongoing support wherever he is reintegrated. He is here today to answer your questions in hopes that you will see that he is not a significant threat to the United States so he can be recommended for transfer. Thank you again for hearing his case.