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CA: This Periodic Review Board is being conducted at 0906 hours on 8 November 2016, with regard to the following detainee: Yassim Qasam [sic] Mohammed Ismail Qasim, ISN 522.

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: [SPEAKING IN ARABIC]

CA: Representatives from the following agencies are present and are members of the Board...

PM: ... I'm sorry. Just a second. We're gonna pause for a translation...

(BMs CONFERRING WHILE PM IS SPEAKING)

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF CA INTRODUCTION STATEMENT]

CA: Representatives from the following agencies are present and are members of Board:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE;

DEPARTMENT OF STATE;

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE;

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY;

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE; AND,

THE OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF

STAFF.

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The following personnel are also present:

LEGAL ADVISOR TO THE BOARD;

CASE ADMINISTRATORS;

A PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE;

TWO TRANSLATORS;

THE DETAINEE; AND,

A SECURITY OFFICER.

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

CA: The detainee's Personal Representative, 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, and Personal Representative's opening statement. These documents have been posted to the Periodic Review Secretariat website. This session is being observed by foreign, national, and local media; foreign government officials; and personal 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 Yassim Qasim Mohammed Ismail Qasim, ISN 522, to protect against a continuing significant threat to the security of the United

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States. From here forward, we'll refer to the detainee as Yassin. This session of the hearing is unclassified.

PM: Yassin, 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: Your Personal Representative is here 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 Representative, has Yassin had an opportunity to review the unclassified statement?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

[VTC paused due to technical difficulties, 0913 hours]

[VTC resumed, 0914 hours]

PM: Personal Representative, has Yassin had an opportunity to review the unclassified statement?

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TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR: Yes, Ma'am.

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

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

Yasim Qasim Muhammad Ismail [sic], ISN 522, is a Yemeni who traveled to Afghanistan in 1999, received extensive combat training, and probably fought against the Northern Alliance near Bagram before his capture in 2001. During his time at Guantanamo Bay, he has been highly noncompliant with the guard force relative to other detainees; however, he has committed no violent offenses since October 2014. Yassin probably retains extremist views and anti-U.S. sentiment, although our insight into his mindset is constrained by his longstanding refusal to be interviewed. Yassin had at least one relative who served as an al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula recruiter and jihadist ideologue as well as other associates who could help him reengage in extremism if released.

Does the Personal Representative wish to make an unclassified opening statement at this time?

TRANS 1: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

PR: Yes, Ma'am.

TRANS 2: [TRANSLATION OF ABOVE]

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PM: All right...

CA: ... Excuse me, Ma'am.

(PRS STAFF CONFERRING)

PM: I'm sorry. We're gonna have to pause again due to technical issues.

[VTC paused due to technical difficulties, 0916 hours]

[VTC resumed, 0940 hours]

PM: Okay, Guantanamo. Sorry about that. For the Personal Representative, can you just pick up with the unclassified... your unclassified opening statement, please?

PR: Yes, Ma'am. Members of the Board, morning. I have been the Personal Representative for Yassin Qasim 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

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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 conversation that has 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 one... 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 at education and Art has brought him joy and actually changed him for the better. He is actively planning for a way to support himself become a functional part of society in hopes that he

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will be transferred from GTMO. He was unable to do this in pa...  
in the past, because it was hard for him 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 hope that you will see that he is not a significant threat to the United States so that he can be recommended for transfer. Thank you again for hearing his case.

PM: Thank you. Board Members may reserve questions until detainee and witness statements have been presented in their entirety. Does any Board Member 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 stay seated until 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]

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[The public session closed at 0943, 8 November 2016.]

[END OF PAGE]



ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYM KEY

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