

CA: This periodic review board is being conducted at 0915 hours on 22 January 2015, at the Periodic Review Secretariat Headquarters, with regard to the following detainee: Tariq Mahmoud Ahmed Al Sawah, ISN 535.

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.

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;**

**OFFICE OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF;**

The following personnel are also present:

**LEGAL ADVISOR TO THE BOARD;**

**CASE ADMINISTRATORS;**

**PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES;**

**PRIVATE COUNSEL;**

**TWO TRANSLATORS;**

**THE DETAINEE; AND,**

**A SECURITY OFFICER.**

The detainee's personal representatives, private counsel, the detainee, and one translator are located at the detention facility, U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. They are attending via video teleconference. This session is being observed by foreign, national and local media; foreign government officials and representatives from non-governmental organizations.

PM: This board is called to order. This board is convened to determine whether continued law of war detention is warranted for Tariq Mahmoud Ahmed Al Sawah, ISN 535, in order to protect against a continuing significant threat to the security of the United States.

This periodic review board hearing session is unclassified. Classified documents and classified discussions related to classified information shall not be presented or discussed during the unclassified session of this hearing.

Tariq, this is your periodic review board to determine whether continued law of war detention is warranted in your case. Your continued law of war detention will be warranted if such detention 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, and not on the lawfulness of your detention.

The personal representatives and private counsel are your representatives to assist you during this process.

Finally, the translators ensure that everyone understands your statements and that you understand what is being said here during the hearing.

Personal representatives and private counsels, has the detainee had an opportunity to review the Unclassified Summary?

PR 1: Yes, ma'am.

PM: I will now read the Unclassified Summary:

Tariq Mahmud Ahmad Muhammad Al Sawah, ISN 535, was an al-Qa'ida explosive expert who probably designed the devices al-Qa'ida used to attack U.S. targets. During the 1990s, he worked for non-governmental organizations linked to terrorism and then joined the Bosnian Army where he received weapons and explosive training.

He traveled to Afghanistan sometime in 2000 to join al-Qa'ida and the Taliban and to attend training camps affiliated with al-Qa'ida. EG-535 while in Afghanistan became an explosives instructor for al-Qa'ida and fought against the Northern Alliance and

U.S. Forces. He met numerous senior terrorist leaders, but there are no indications he held a leadership position.

EG-535 during the first two years of his detention was hostile to the guard force. While EG-535 openly admits to having taken part in terrorism, there are no indications that he is interested in reengaging in extremist activity. He has told interrogators that he hopes to reunite with family members – some of whom who live in Egypt, Bosnia, and the U.S.

There are no indications that EG-535 is in communication with extremists outside of Guantanamo.

If EG-535 were repatriated to Egypt, he probably would seek to reside temporarily with family members while pursuing opportunities to resettle elsewhere. EG-535 seems unlikely to pursue reengagement but he would be capable of reengaging as an explosive expert or trainer. He retains extensive knowledge of explosive compounds and techniques.

Do the personal representatives and private counsel wish to make unclassified opening statements at this time?

PR 1: Yes, ma'am.

PM: I would like to remind all participants that any information shared at this time must be unclassified. If there is a concern about the classification of the information, I will indicate



such and the proceedings will stop until the classification issue is resolved.

Has the detainee had the opportunity to review the PRs' opening statement? And if so, does he require translation today?

PR 1: Yes, ma'am, he has seen it. And he does not require translation.

PM: Personal representatives, you may proceed with your opening statements.

PR 1: Thank you.

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen of the board. We are the personal representatives for Mr. Tariq Mahmoud Ahmed Al Sawah. We are joined by the private counsel for Tariq and his translator. We have met with Tariq for approximately 50 hours over the past four months and he is eager to participate in this periodic review board process. Tariq is here, ready and willing to address any questions or concerns that you may have.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Pending any questions from the Board, this concludes my brief.

PM: Thank you.

We understand that board members may reserve questions until detainee and witness statements have been presented in their entirety.

Does any board -- member of the board have questions for the personal representatives or private counsel in this session?

**[No verbal response from the members.]**

PM: Seeing no questions, this concludes this portion of the hearing.

I request all remain seated until further instructed by the case administrator.

CA: We will take a 15-minute recess to prepare for the remaining sessions.

BM: Do we know if the personal counsel had an opening statement that he wanted to make?

CA: No, sir, they did not wish to make one at the unclassified session.

BM: Okay.

**[The public session closed at 0921, 22 January 2015.]**

**[At this point, the unclassified portion of the hearing ended.]**

**ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYM KEY**

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

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