

PERIODIC REVIEW BOARD, 25 AUGUST 2016  
**HAJI WALI MOHAMMED, ISN 560**  
PRIVATE COUNSEL STATEMENT

Over more than 14 years in detention, and hundreds of interrogations since his 2002 arrest in Pakistan, Haji Wali Mohammed's account of his life and business dealings has never varied. The Detainee Profile states that Mr. Mohammed was judged to be completely reliable and honest in his reporting on events about to take place in the camps at Guantanamo. It would be reasonable for the Board to consider the possibility that Mr. Mohammed has been completely reliable and honest in all that he has said since his arrest. We urge the Board to do so.

Mr. Mohammed made one significant mistake of judgment, and he has been very unlucky – most of all in having an extremely common name. He is, however, an honest man.

Wali Mohammed's business was currency exchange. He bought and sold currency in Pakistan and the UAE with the aim of capitalizing on differences in exchange rates. As he has freely admitted, in late 1997 and early 1998, he entered into a partnership to pursue such a currency arbitrage with the Central Bank of Afghanistan – then under the control of the Taliban government. As Wali Mohammed has said, and as an expert on his behalf confirmed, such partnerships were commonplace before, during, and after the Taliban regime. Wali Mohammed described, and the expert confirms, the sudden and significant volatility in the value of the Pakistani rupee in 1998.

The result was a catastrophic loss – roughly a half-million of the \$1.5 million the Central Bank had invested. After the Taliban government learned of the loss, investigators fired the head of the Central Bank, threatened Wali Mohammed with prison, actually imprisoned his cousin, and forced the entire loss on him – in violation of the terms of the deal. This is not the kind of treatment one would expect of someone who was part of or of any importance to the Taliban.

The disastrous failure of the Central Bank transaction also makes it implausible that Wali Mohammed conducted financial transactions for Osama Bin Ladin thereafter – leaving aside that Mr. Mohammed speaks little Arabic and bin Ladin spoke no Pashto. Two intelligence experts on behalf of Mr. Mohammed – one, the former Director of Human Intelligence Collection for the DIA; and the other, a former DIA intelligence analyst, identities expert, and, after the 9/11 attacks, a CIA contractor and charter member of the Terrorist Threat Integration Center, the National Counter Terrorism Center, and the Advanced Analytics Team – have shown, consistent with the Detainee Profile, that the identification of Mr. Mohammed is problematic. Even the late Taliban leader, Mullah Akhtar Mansour, reportedly carried a passport bearing the name “Wali Mohammed.”

Mr. Mohammed's attenuated marital connections to relatives of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar do not constitute a threat. Mr. Mohammed is deeply devoted to the welfare of his own family and children. He has no interest in politics, or in engaging in dealings in any way connected to the Taliban or any other extremist group. We respectfully ask that the Board find that Wali Mohammed is not a threat to the security of the United States.

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PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE STATEMENT

Good morning ladies and gentlemen of the board. I am the Personal Representative for ISN 560. Thank you for the opportunity to present the case for Haji Wali Mohammed.

Wali Mohammed was a businessman since a very young age. His interests and relationships back home were always very focused on his career as a currency exchanger, which is a common occupation in that region. In this capacity, he executed an investment with the Afghan Central Bank while the Taliban were in power. However, he was never a member of the Taliban and was never an extremist. At times in the currency exchange you may have competitors, creditors, and others that owe you money. Unfortunately for Wali Mohammed, he made an investment that turned out poorly. At that same time there were others that owed him a significant amount he would then use for paying debts. This was all understood by the tribal elders, which spurred a tribal council to determine the outcome. During this council period, just as the results looked favorable for Wali Mohammed, he was quickly arrested at his home.

It is no surprise that Wali Mohammed has been a highly compliant detainee. Although he has been through many difficult times, he still maintains an excellent attitude and his personality shines vibrantly. In each meeting our conversations always included a story from him ending in laughter for us all. This is because he allows his true self to be known, which is a jovial person that enjoys the company of others. His detention has been truly difficult in this regard as he longs to reunite with his family. His children are the light in his life and their memory occupies his thoughts.

It is not Wali Mohammed's nature to hide his feelings, which makes me confident he plans to do what he says after detention. The rest of his days will consist of significant family time and watching the Afghanistan cricket team he is so very proud of. He will certainly use the knowledge he gained at Guantanamo such as the value of healthy living and an open world view to instill in his children. Although he could support himself, he has a family that pledged to allow him to retire upon his return, which he plans to do. His family members are peaceful and he also desires a non-political and peaceful existence.

Wali Mohammed is open to any country for transfer and would attempt to relocate his family as necessary and permitted by the host nation. I am pleased to answer any questions you may have.