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1 CA: This Periodic Review Board hearing is being conducted at
2 0901 hours on 7 December 2021, with regard to the following
3 detainee: Abdullah Al Sharbi (ISN 682). As a reminder, the
4 unclassified portions of these proceedings are being
5 recorded for the purpose of generating a transcript to be
6 posted on the PRS website.

7 HQ Translator: [Translates above]

8 CA: Representatives from the following agencies are present and
9 are members of the Board: Department of Defense,
10 Department of State, Department of Justice, Department of
11 Homeland Security, Office of the Director of National
12 Intelligence, and the Office of the Chairman of the Joint
13 Chiefs of Staff. The following personnel are also present:
14 Legal Advisor to the Board, Case Administrator, Personal
15 Representative, Translators, the detainee and the Security
16 Officer.

17 HQ Translator: [Translates above]

18 CA: The detainee's Personal Representative, the detainee, and
19 translator are located at the detention facility, U.S.
20 Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. They are attending via
21 video teleconference. The detainee has waived translation
22 of the unclassified summary and the Personal
23 Representative's statement. The unclassified summary has
24 been posted to the Periodic Review Secretariat website.
25 Foreign, national and local media, Foreign Government
26 Officials, and Representatives from Non-Governmental
27 Organizations may be observing this session.

28 HQ Translator: [Translates above]

29 PM: This Board is convened to determine whether continued law
30 of war detention is warranted for Abdullah Al Sharbi (ISN
31 682) to protect against a continuing significant threat to
32 the security of the United States. From here on forward, we

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33 will refer to the detainee as Ghassan. This session of the
34 hearing is unclassified.

35 HQ Translator: [Translates above]

36 PM: Ghassan, this is your Periodic Review Board to determine
37 whether continued law of war detention is warranted in your
38 case. Continued law of war detention will be warranted if
39 it is necessary to protect against a continuing significant
40 threat to the security of the United States. The focus of
41 this hearing is on the threat you may pose to the United
42 States and its interests if transferred or released from
43 U.S. custody. It is not on the lawfulness of your
44 detention.

45 HQ Translator: [Translates above]

46 PM: The Personal Representative is your representative to
47 assist you during this process. Finally, the translators
48 ensure that everyone understands your statements and you
49 you understand what is being said during the hearing.

50 HQ Translator: [Translates above]

51 PM: Personal Representative, has the detainee had an
52 opportunity to review the Unclassified Summary?

53 HQ Translator: [Translates above]

54 PR: Yes, Sir.

55 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

56 PM: Thank you. I will now read the Unclassified Summary:
57 Ghassan Abdullah Al Sharbi (ISN-682) attended U.S. aviation
58 training from 1998 to 2001, where he associated with two
59 9/11 hijackers. He later helped construct IEDs in Pakistan
60 to attack coalition forces and may have been involved in
61 Homeland attack planning, possibly including the plot by
62 Jose Padilla to explode a radiological bomb. Al Sharbi was
63 captured in 2002 at a safe house of senior al-Qa'ida
64 facilitator Abu Zubaydah (ISN 10016) in Punjab Province,

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65 Pakistan. Does the Personal Representative wish to make
66 unclassified Opening Statement at this time?
67 HQ Translator: [Translates above]
68 PR: Yes, Sir.
69 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]
70 PM: I would like to remind all participants that any
71 information shared at this time must be unclassified. If
72 there is a concern about the classification of the
73 information, I will indicate as such and will stop the
74 proceedings until we resolve the issue. Has the detainee
75 had an opportunity to review your statement?
76 HQ Translator: [Translates above]
77 PR: Yes, Sir.
78 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]
79 PM: Okay. Personal Representative, please proceed.
80 HQ Translator: [Translates above]
81 PR: Good morning ladies and gentlemen of the Board. I am the
82 Personal Representative for Mr. Abdullah Al Sharbi.
83 Ghassan, as he prefers to be called, is currently seeking a
84 Private Counsel but he was adamant about being present for
85 this important opportunity with or without the
86 participation of counsel.
87
88 Ghassan has been in detainment since March of 2002. During
89 that time his health deteriorated, making it difficult for
90 him to move and painful to travel for meetings and phone
91 calls. In the last year, Ghassan has started working with
92 the medical staff at the Camp in an effort to improve his
93 mobility and overall health. He worked through the pain to
94 attend our first meeting, but the physical discomfort he
95 was in was evident. I have been impressed over the last few
96 months seeing the great effort he made to attend all the

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97 meetings I scheduled to prepare for this board. I have also
98 been fortunate enough to witness his health start to
99 improve.

100
101 Ghassan knows that the board has questions about his
102 mindset and his hopes for the future and he is here today
103 to answer those questions. During our meetings, we have had
104 many discussions about what he thinks his life will look
105 like outside of Guantanamo. Ghassan holds a bachelor's
106 degree and is fluent in English. He has lived in the United
107 States and Europe and is familiar and comfortable around
108 those of different backgrounds and faiths. I believe he
109 could assimilate well in either an Arabic or English-
110 speaking country. He would like to find a job where he
111 could use his degree, but recognizes he may need some
112 additional training as the engineering world has continued
113 to evolve during his detention. Alternatively, he has
114 considered the possibility of becoming a teacher or tutor
115 as he has a minor in Mathematics from Embry-Riddle.

116
117 I believe that with a little assistance navigating the job
118 market or enrolling in continued education, Ghassan has the
119 capacity to flourish wherever he is sent. Thank you for
120 your time today and we are standing by for your questions.

121 PM: Thank you. Huh board Members may reserve questions until
122 detainee and witness statements have been presented in
123 their entirety. However, does anyone have huh questions at
124 this particular time?

125 HQ Translator: [Translates above]

126 PM: With no questions, this concludes this portion of the
127 hearing. I ask that all remain seated until further
128 instructed by the Case Administrator.

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129 HQ Translator: [Translates above]
130 CA: We will take a short recess to prepare for the remaining
131 sessions. Time now 0912.
132 HQ Translator: [Translates above]

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