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1 CA: This Periodic Review Board is being conducted at 1005 hours
2 on 20 August 2019, with regard to the following detainee:
3 Abdullah Al Sharbi (ISN 682). As a reminder, the unclassified
4 portions of these proceedings are being recorded for the
5 purpose of generating a script, a transcript to be posted on
6 the PRS website. Representatives from the following agencies
7 are present and are members of the Board: Department of
8 Defense, Department of State, Department of Justice,
9 Department of Homeland Security, Office of the Director of
10 National Intelligence and Office of the Chairman of the Joint
11 Chiefs of Staff. The following personnel are also present:
12 Legal Advisor to the Board, Case Administrators, Personal
13 Representative, Two Translators, The detainee and the
14 Security Officer. The detainee, pardon me, the detainee's
15 Personal Representative, the detainee, and one translator are
16 located at the detention facility, US Naval Station
17 Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. He is attending via video
18 teleconference and the detainee waived translation of the
19 unclassified summary and the Personal Representative's
20 opening statement. These documents have been posted to the
21 Periodic Review Secretariat website. This session is being
22 observed by foreign, national and local media; Foreign
23 Government Officials and Representatives from Non-
24 Governmental Organizations.

25 PM: Good morning, apologies for late start on the board this
26 morning. We had some technical difficulties in one of the
27 courtrooms and we had to move to our alternate courtroom and
28 that took a little effort. So sorry for the delay. But uh,
29 this board is convened to determine whether continued law of
30 war detention is warranted for Ghassan Abdullah Al Sharbi
31 (Ab-doollah Al Shar-Bee) (ISN 682) to protect against a
32 continuing significant threat to the security of the United

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33 States. From here on forward, we will refer to the detainee
34 as Ghassan. This session of the hearing is unclassified.
35 Ghassan, this is your Periodic Review Board to determine
36 whether continued law of war detention is warranted in your
37 case. Continued law of war detention will be warranted if it
38 is necessary to protect against a continuing significant
39 threat to the national security of the United States. The
40 focus of this hearing is on the threat you may pose to the
41 United States and its interests if transferred or released
42 from US custody. It is not on the lawfulness of your
43 detention. The Personal Representative is your representative
44 to assist you during this process. Finally, the translators
45 ensure that everyone understands your statements and that you
46 understand what is being said during the hearing. Personal
47 Representative, has the detainee had an opportunity to review
48 the Unclassified Summary?

49 PR: Yes, sir.

50 PM: Thank you. I will now read the UNCLASSIFIED SUMMARY:

51 Ghassan Abdallah Ghazi al-Sharbi (ISN-682) attended a US
52 flight school in early 2001, where he associated with two 911
53 hijackers. He may have been involved in homeland attack
54 planning, possibly including the plot by Jose Padilla to
55 explode a radiological bomb. Sharbi was captured in 2002 at
56 the safe house of senior al-Qa'ida facilitator Abu Zubaydah
57 (ISN 10016) in Punjab Province, Pakistan. Does the Personal
58 Representative wish to make an unclassified opening statement
59 at this time?

60 PR: Yes, sir.

61 PM: I would like to remind all participants that any information
62 shared at this time must be unclassified. If there is a
63 concern about the classification of the information, I will
64 indicate as such and will stop the proceedings until we

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65 resolve the issue. Has the detainee had the opportunity to
66 review your statements?

67 PR: Yes, sir.

68 PM: Okay, Personal Representative, you may now proceed.

69 PR: Thank you, members of the Board, thank you for the
70 opportunity to present this opening statement for Ghassan
71 Abdullah Al Sharbi, ISN 682. Mr. Al Sharbi met with me on
72 five occasions this year but has refused to meet on my most
73 recent attempts in May, June, and July. Mr. Al Sharbi has
74 stopped attending meetings due to his displeasure in our
75 ability to provide him with a "Dream Team" of lawyers. Mr. Al
76 Sharbi continues to communicate through letters, but has
77 advised me that he will not attend our meetings again until I
78 get him a team of four lawyers from big firms and
79 specifically one firm that specializes in Public Relations
80 and one firm that currently represents the 911 victims. We
81 have made every effort to obtain legal counsel for Mr. Al
82 Sharbi; however, the lawyers who volunteer to take his case
83 are not the ones he wants. We will continue to reach out to
84 the Private Counsel that Mr. Al Sharbi requests in the hopes
85 that a PC that he is agreeable with will agree to represent
86 him. In addition, Mr. Al Sharbi is frustrated that the PRs
87 will not assist him in getting his story out to the press. I
88 have explained, in English and Arabic, the role of the
89 Periodic Review Secretariat and that the media are
90 authorized, and invited to attend portions of his hearing.
91 We will continue to schedule meetings and communicate through
92 letters in the hopes that Mr. Al Sharbi will reengage with
93 his Personal Representative and the Periodic Review Board. In
94 closing, I would like to thank the Board members for their
95 time.

96 PM: Board Members may reserve questions until detainee and
97 witness statements have been presented in their entirety.
98 Does anyone have a question at this particular time? Okay,
99 uh, with no questions, this concludes this portion of the
100 hearing. I ask that all remain seated until further
101 instructed by the Case Administrator.

102 CA: We will now take a short recess to prepare for the remaining
103 sessions. Sir it will take them a couple minutes to get set
104 up, then we will be good to go.

105 PM: How long do you think it will take?

106 CA: Five minutes.

107 PM: Well take five minutes and then we will reconvene. Commander
108 [REDACTED] Board members remember that when the detainee makes
109 any statements, those states are presumed to be classified.
110 All questions need to remain at the unclassified level.