

PERIODIC REVIEW BOARD INITIAL HEARING, 14 JUL 2016
ISMA'IL ALI FARAJ AL-BAKUSH. ISN 708
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OPENING STATEMENT

Members of the Board, I am the Personal Representative for Isma'il Ali Faraj al-Bakush, ISN 708. I will be presenting this case this morning. First off, let me start by stating that Isma'il is pleased to have the opportunity to have his case heard, to tell his story and to answer your questions in detail. Additionally, Isma'il has been cooperative and receptive while meeting with me.

As a result of our meetings, I can surely say that Isma'il is eager and excited to begin a new chapter in his life. Isma'il wishes only to move forward and to put the past behind him. As an example, Isma'il has learned to be more opened minded, tolerant and accepting to others while living in a communal living setting. Isma'il believes that his communal living arrangement allows him more opportunities to gain exposure for himself to other detainees' cultural and religious backgrounds. As a result, Isma'il now respects and values the opinions of others from various cultural backgrounds.

Isma'il has been compliant and only wishes all other well. He enjoys the company of others and would not jeopardize the opportunities that this brings to share life experiences with other detainees. Isma'il routinely partakes in gatherings where he and others are able to share stories of their childhood.

Unfortunately, I was not able to contact his family, but understand from our discussions that his mother has properties that would enable her to offer Isma'il financial support. His cousin is employed and is also willing to help Isma'il financially.

Isma'il enjoys watching and playing many sports such as soccer and swimming. While at Guantanamo Bay, Isma'il has taken classes in health and life skills classes. Isma'il also enjoys cooking for others and as a result, Isma'il would like to work in the restaurant industry. Isma'il looks forward to having his own family someday. He particularly looks forward to raising children of his own.

I am confident that Isma'il's desire to pursue a peaceful and productive life is sincere. His demeanor is one of an individual that has learned from his mistakes and actions of the past. He is willing to concentrate on a bright and meaningful future. While Isma'il prefers to live in an Arabic speaking country, he is willing to relocate to a country that provides him opportunities for a successful future. Isma'il is willing to participate in a rehabilitation or reintegration program as well.

Isma'il and I appreciate your time in this matter and your consideration for a transfer recommendation.