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1 CA: This Periodic Review Board hearing is being conducted at
2 0907 hours on 22 March 2022, with regard to the following
3 detainee: Ismael Ali Faraj Ali Bakush (ISN 708). As a
4 reminder, the unclassified portions of these proceedings
5 are being recorded for the purpose of generating a
6 transcript to be 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 Administrators, 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 Ismael Ali Faraj Ali
31 Bakush (ISN 708) to protect against a continuing
32 significant threat to the security of the United States.

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33 From here on forward, we will refer to the detainee as
34 Ismael. This session of the hearing is unclassified.

35 HQ Translator: [Translates above]

36 PM: Ismael, 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 significant, a
40 continuing significant threat to the security of the United
41 States. The focus of this hearing is on the threat you may
42 pose to the United States and its interests if transferred
43 or released from U.S. custody. It is not on the lawfulness
44 of your detention.

45 HQ Translator: [Translates above]

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

51 HQ Translator: [Translates above]

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

54 HQ Translator: [Translates above]

55 PR: Yes, Sir.

56 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

57 PM: Thank you. I will now read the Unclassified Summary:
58 Ismael Ali Faraj Ali Bakush (ISN 708) was a Libyan Islamic
59 Fighting Group explosives expert who trained al-Qa'ida
60 members and probably provided operational support to key
61 al-Qa'ida figures. He has consistently denied his close
62 association with al-Qa'ida members, according to the same
63 sources; however, we assess that Bakush played a greater
64 role in al-Qa'ida operations than he admits.

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65 HQ Translator: [Translates above]

66 PR: Yes, Sir.

67 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

68 PM: I would like to remind all participants that any
69 information shared at this time must be unclassified. If
70 there is a concern about the classification of the
71 information, I will indicate as such and will stop the
72 proceedings until we resolve the issue. Has the detainee
73 had an opportunity to review your statement?

74 HQ Translator: [Translates above]

75 PR: Yes, Sir.

76 GTMO Translator: [Translates above]

77 PM: Personal Representative, please proceed.

78 HQ Translator: [Translates above]

79 PR: Good Morning ladies and gentlemen of the Board. I am the
80 Personal Representative for Mr. Ismael Ali Faraj Aki
81 Bakush. Although introverted by nature, Ismael attends
82 every meeting I request with him and is open with me in
83 discussing his past and future plans. If cleared for
84 transfer, Ismael dreams of a simple life with modest goals.
85 He wants to be resettled in an Arabic speaking country
86 where he will be able to assimilate easily. Ismael is open
87 to attending a rehabilitation program. He wants to work in
88 a small shop or store and hopes to one day have his own
89 shop to run. He dreams of finding a wife and having
90 children one day. I believe that Ismael has the capacity to
91 achieve all these goals, if released from Guantanamo.

92

93 I want to share a brief anecdote about Ismael that
94 demonstrates his maturity, resilience and ability to cope
95 appropriately with setbacks - all skills that I believe
96 will be incredibly valuable in reintegrating into society.

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97 I had only been meeting with Ismael for a short time, when
98 I was asked to give him some news that I knew would be very
99 upsetting and could make any one in his situation feel
100 angry, powerless or hopeless. I prepared myself for the
101 variety of negative reactions I thought the news would
102 elicit and worried that he would shut down and refuse to
103 continue to meet with me and participate in the PRS
104 process. Instead, Ismael accepted the news with a quiet
105 disappointment. He asked insightful questions to try to
106 understand the situation and if there was anything that
107 could be done about it. He never lashed out in anger or
108 frustration either with me or with the JTF guards or other
109 detainees. His response demonstrated a level of emotional
110 maturity and resilience that I believe will allow him to
111 flourish wherever he is sent. Thank you for your time today
112 and we are standing by for your questions.

113 PM: Board Members may reserve questions until detainee and
114 witness statements have been presented in their entirety.
115 However, does anyone have any questions at this time?

116 HQ Translator: [Translates above]

117 PM: With no questions, this concludes this portion of the
118 brief, of the hearing. I ask that all remain seated until
119 further instructed by the Case Administrator.

120 HQ Translator: [Translates above]

121 CA: We will take a short recess to prepare for the remaining
122 sessions. Time now 0917.

123 HQ Translator: [Translates above]

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