

1 CA: This Periodic Review Board is being conducted at 0916, on 20
2 October 2020 with regard to the following detainee: Ismael
3 Ali Faraj Ali Bakush (ISN 708). 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 CA: Representatives from the following agencies are present and
8 are members of the Board: Department of Defense, Department
9 of State, Department of Justice, Department of Homeland
10 Security, Office of the Director of National Intelligence
11 and Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
12 The following personnel are also present: Legal Advisor to
13 the Board, Case Administrators, Personal Representative,
14 and the Security Officer. The detainee's Personal
15 Representative, the detainee, and translator are located at
16 the detention facility, U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay,
17 Cuba. The Personal Representative is attending via video
18 teleconference. The detainee has chosen not to attend the
19 unclassified summary will be posted to the Periodic Review
20 Secretariat website. Foreign, national and local media;
21 Foreign Government Officials and Representatives from Non-
22 Governmental Organizations may be observing this session.

23 PM: This Board is convened to determine whether continued law
24 of war detention is warranted for Ismael Ali Faraj Ali
25 Bakush (ISN 708) to protect against a continuing
26 significant threat to the security of the United States.
27 This session of the hearing is unclassified.

28 PM: Personal Representative as the detainee had an opportunity
29 to review the Unclassified Summary?

30 PR: Yes, Sir.

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

32 Ismael Ali Faraj Ali Bakush (ISN 708) was a Liban Islamic
33 Fighting Group explosive expert who trained al-Qaida
34 members and probably provided operational support to key
35 al-Qaida figures. He consistently has denied his close
36 association to al-Qaida and expertise with explosives,
37 according to the same sources; however, we assess that
38 Bakush played a greater role in al-Qaida operations than he
39 admits. After 11 September 2001, Bakush left Jalabad,
40 Afghanistan, and raveled to Lahore, Pakistan, where he was
41 arrested by Pakistani authorities and was later transferred
42 to US custody in August 2002. Does the Personal
43 Representative wish to make unclassified Opening Statement
44 at this time?

45 PR: Yes, Sir.

46 PM: I would like to remind all participants that any information
47 shared at this time must be unclassified. If there is a
48 concern about the classification of the information, I will
49 indicate as such and will stop the proceedings until we
50 resolve the issue. Has the detainee had the opportunity to
51 review your statements?

52 PR: Yes, Sir.

53 PM: Thank you, Personal Representative, you may now proceed.

54 PR: Members of the board, thank you for the opportunity to
55 present this statement as the Personal Representative for
56 Ismael Ali Faraj Ali Bakush (ISN 708). As of 1 October 2020
57 I have assumed the role as Mr. Bakush PR. His previous PR
58 was assigned from June 2017 until 30 September 2020 and has
59 concluded his assignment with the Periodic Review
60 Secretariat. I have met with Mr. Bakush and he has opted to
61 not participate in today's board. Thank you for our time
62 and consideration in this case.

63 PM: Board Members may reserve questions until detainee and
64 witness statements have been presented in their entirety.
65 Do any of the board have any questions at this particular
66 time? With no further questions, this concludes this
67 portion of the hearing. I ask that all remain seated until
68 further instructed by the Case Administrator.
69 CA: We will take a short recess to prepare for remaining
70 sessions. Time now 0920.