

PERIODIC REVIEW BOARD INITIAL FULL HEARING, 31 MAY 2016  
**SHAWQI AWAD BALZUHAIR, ISN 838**  
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OPENING STATEMENT

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen of the Board, I am the Personal Representative for Shawqi Awad Balzuhair. I have met with Mr. Balzuhair multiple times in preparation for the Periodic Review process and I can attest that he has always attended each meeting. He is quite pleasant and is looking forward to answering your questions today in hopes of reuniting with his family.

What I have learned about Shawqi through my interactions with him is that his family has prepared for his return. They will continue to be a supportive family no matter where he is transferred. While the family has considered that Shawqi may not return to Yemen, they are preparing for him financially and have created a nest egg for him. There was an inheritance left to him which has been divided among the unmarried family members. In addition, while Yemen is experiencing much unrest, all members in his family continue to work and some have two jobs. Each family member has confirmed financial support for Shawqi after his release from Guantanamo. As we know, support comes in many forms. Shawqi's family will also continue to support him emotionally and spiritually as they have done during his years in GTMO. Of course, once he leaves GTMO, they will have a greater ability due to the freedoms allowed from cellphone and internet contact. They will be able to encourage and help him more.

Shawqi is preparing for life after GTMO by developing his mind and his skill sets. While in Guantanamo, he has developed an interest in carpentry. Based upon an instructor's recommendation, who noted that Shawqi was able to visualize objects in 3 dimensions, Shawqi has developed a passion for building. Shawqi added math classes and requested self-study books from his Private Counsel to enhance his ability in carpentry projects. He has also taken additional classes in English, Life Skills and Art. Carpentry is a versatile occupation, capable of being used throughout the world wherever he may be transferred.

Shawqi's temperament will aid in his transfer as he gets along well with others, as seen by getting along with both detainees and the guard force. He has learned quite a bit about other cultures while he has lived in GTMO. As most detainees, he is hoping to start his life after GTMO by finding a wife. He knows that he will have to work hard and he is willing to do so, with the help of his family and the active goals he is striving towards such as learning new skills.

So, he is here today to answer your questions openly. I will be here throughout if you have any questions for me. Thank you.