

PERIODIC REVIEW BOARD INITIAL HEARING, 21 APR 2016  
**SAID SALIH SAID NASHIR, ISN 841**  
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OPENING STATEMENT

Good morning ladies and gentlemen of the Board. We are the Personal Representatives for ISN 841, Mr. Hani Saleh Rashid Abdullah. We will be assisting Mr. Abdullah with his case this morning, along with the assistance of his Private Counsel.

Hani has been overjoyed and eager to participate in the Periodic Review process since we first met with him in mid-March 2016. When we explained why we were meeting with him, not only did he express his happiness, but it was obvious by the way his face lit up. He has maintained his positive attitude throughout all of our meetings and has always been gracious and respectful towards us. What is probably most amazing is that he is almost always smiling. Even when discussing hardship, he maintains his humor. He tells his stories much in the same way one might tell of a terrible situation where, with time, the memory of has become a little less painful. Perhaps even to the point where one might be able to see at least a small amount of humor in it.

During our meetings, Hani has expressed his desire to return home to reunite with his family, although he does realize that it is not likely that he would be transferred to Yemen. He is open to transfer to any country, but would prefer an Arabic-speaking country, if possible. He is willing to participate in any rehabilitation or reintegration program as well. He looks forward to getting married after his transfer from Guantanamo Bay, and starting his own family. He also hopes that at some point his sisters and brothers could visit him and he could get to know the youngest members of his close-knit family who were born during his detention. His 10 years of experience as an electrician, as well as the classes he has taken while here at GTMO, will help him to find employment regardless of where he is transferred.

Hani has been a compliant detainee and has taken advantage of the many educational opportunities here at the detention facility. He has learned basic computer skills, including how to use Photoshop, and has taken classes in art, life skills and English. He has done well in all courses and his teachers speak highly of him. By being exposed to so many people of various cultural and religious backgrounds here at GTMO, Hani has also had a chance to better understand and appreciate their beliefs and customs which will also serve him well wherever he is transferred.

We are confident that Hani's desire to pursue a better way of life if transferred from Guantanamo Bay is genuine and that he bears no ill will towards anyone. We remain convinced that Hani does not pose a significant threat to security of the United States or any of its allies.

Thank you for your time and attention and we look forward to answering any questions you may have during this Board.

Statement of Charles H. Carpenter

Good morning, ladies and Gentlemen of the Board. I am Charley Carpenter, and am here as private counsel to ISN 841. Thank you for the opportunity to address you today.

I am a member of the bars of Montana, Idaho, Maryland, and the District of Columbia and, together with Stephen M. Truitt, have been representing Hani Saleh Rashid Abdullah (ISN 841) since January 2005. I have visited Abdullah more than a dozen times over the years, and have come to know him well.

We were first engaged to represent Abdullah by his sister, who lives with her husband in Bahrein. Abdullah's family had learned from the Red Crescent that he was in US captivity, and wanted a lawyer to represent him in a petition for a writ of habeas corpus.

We first visited Abdullah in June of 2005. He described for us his brief experience in Afghanistan prior to fleeing that country in late 2001, and his efforts to get home to Yemen for the next 10 months or so. He also described the horrendous treatment to which he was subjected in the "Prison of Darkness" after his arrest in Pakistan. It was particularly striking to me that he seemed, less than three years after that ordeal, to be nearly without rancor, and to have a fairly positive outlook on life.

My experiences with him over the ensuing 11 years have borne that out: though the ups and downs of the delays in his case, and the changes in conditions at the prison, Abdullah has remained optimistic and focused on the future. From the beginning, he has asked us about educational opportunities, and has had us find written material to supplement the classes he has been taking while in the prison. He has maintained a healthy sense of humor – sometimes a little dry, but always fairly positive. He has never seemed angry, nor motivated to do harm.

Abdullah has been devoted to his family throughout our representation of him. He was always as interested in family news as in the progress in our case, and has always expressed the hope that he would be reunited with them. Mr. Truitt and I visited with Abdullah's oldest brother in Yemen in 2008, and I met Abdullah's father at the time. They were, and remain, devoted to helping Abdullah rebuild his life once he is released. Neither Abdullah nor his family has ever expressed to me any sentiment

that could be called either political or religious extremism, nor do they seem inclined in that way in any sense.

Similarly, Mr. Truitt and I stand ready to help Abdullah re-integrate to the extent we can – our post-Guantanamo work with our other client ISN 519 has been rewarding for us and helpful for him.

Thanks again for the opportunity to speak to you. I would be happy to answer any questions.