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PERIODIC REVIEW BOARD, MAY 5, 2014

Muhammad Abd Al-Rahman Al-Shumrani, ISN 195

OPENING STATEMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Good morning ladies and gentlemen of the board. We are the Personal Representatives for Muhammad Abd Al-Rahman Al-Shumrani. We will be presenting Muhammad's case to you today without the aid of private counsel. Additionally, Muhammad has elected not to participate during this portion of the process, but we want you to know that though he is not physically present at today's board, he has been cooperative during the earlier stages of the PRB process. He has provided information to us via letters on several occasions that help explain why he has chosen not to appear today. He has also provided us some information about what he would like to do in the future.

Muhammad has spent 12 years at Guantanamo Bay and during that time he has missed the birth of many family members and has had to endure the pain of losing his father. In fact, he found out about the death of his father 8 years after the fact. Now he desires to be reunited with his family, especially his mother, and make up for lost time. Today you will hear about the composition of his family and his future desires, should he be released from Guantanamo Bay.

Muhammad benefits from being a Saudi citizen and according to the unclassified dossier "the Saudi government has provided the appropriate assurances to facilitate the transfer of detainees." As a result of "these assurances, the United States has transferred over 100 detainees, including two in 2013, to Saudi Arabia." Saudi Arabia has established a robust rehabilitation and aftercare program "focused on changing the attitudes of Saudis who have been involved in terrorism and include detainees transferred from the Guantanamo Bay detention facility. These components [of the program] include counseling, religious instruction, sports, and social and therapeutic activities." Additionally, family members are able to visit the detainees going through the program. Muhammad has told us that he is willing to go

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through the government program even though he does not know the details of the program. This shows his desire to turn his life around and return home to be with his family.

Muhammad would like to be here today and talk to the board personally, but his reason for not participating is very personal and tied to his strong cultural beliefs. He has consistently stated his objection to the body search required to be conducted prior to his attendance at legal meetings or other appointments. For this detainee, the body search as conducted, which requires the guard to touch the area near his genitals, is humiliating and degrading. Muhammad has not only refused to attend our scheduled meetings with him, he has even refused dental appointments, knowing that his own personal comfort would be affected by failure to meet with the medical provider. In fact, the *only* appointments Muhammad takes are the limited opportunities he has to talk to his family. I will share Muhammad's own words with you later today and I believe you will see that his convictions do not imply an unwillingness to cooperate, nor do they establish or support in any way that he is a significant threat to the United States, but rather that he is a man who cannot subject himself to searches he finds degrading.

Since being in detention, Muhammad's behavior has been classified according to his unclassified dossier as "problematic and unpredictable" and it has been stated he uses "his authority...to encourage other detainees not to cooperate with detention staff." In many ways, and as those of you with prior military experience would likely acknowledge, Muhammad's resistant mindset while in detention is similar to the mindset and behaviors we expect of our own military members should they be captured and become Prisoners of War. Article III of the Code of Conduct states "If I am captured, I will continue to resist by all means available." Muhammad's pattern of behavior in detention does not mean he is a significant threat to the United States; rather that he is behaving like a man captured in conflict who is continuing to resist by all means available, a quality which we train for and require from our military members.

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As I have already stated, Muhammad has said he would like to return to Saudi Arabia and go through the country's extensive detainee rehabilitation program so that he may rejoin his family. Never in our inquiries to Muhammad did we ask about or even mention the Saudi rehabilitation program. We did not ask him if he would be willing to participate in the program in any of our correspondence. Rather, Muhammad volunteered the information freely, thus showing he does not have a desire to return to the fight and should not be considered a continuing significant threat to the United States.

You have probably already reviewed the historical information that led to Muhammad's detention. As you review the additional documentation we have provided, and have the opportunity to ask questions, I urge you to consider the whole picture when making your recommendation. Muhammad is a man who wants to start over and should be given a second chance. He should not be considered a continuing significant threat to the United States. Thank you for your time and consideration. We are happy to answer any questions you may have throughout this proceeding.

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