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CLERK: This periodic review board is being conducted at 0902 hours on the 20th of March 2014 at the Periodic Review Secretariat Headquarters with -- regarding to the following detainee: Ali Ahmad al-Razihi.

As a reminder, the unclassified portions of these proceedings are being recorded for the purpose of generating a transcript to be posted on the PRS website.

TRANS 1: **[Translation of above.]**

CLERK: Representatives from the following agencies are present:

**The DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE;**  
**DEPARTMENT OF STATE;**  
**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE;**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY;**  
**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE;**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF;**  
**LEGAL ADVISOR TO THE BOARD;**  
**CASE ADMINISTRATOR;**  
**HEARING CLERK;**  
**PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES;**  
**TWO TRANSLATORS;**  
**DETAINEE;**  
**and, a SECURITY OFFICER.**

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TRANS 1: **[Translation of above.]**

CLERK: The detainee's personal representatives, the detainee, and one of two translators are located at the detention facility, U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and are attending this hearing via VTC.

TRANS 1: **[Translation of above.]**

PM: This board is called to order. This board is convened to determine whether continued law of war detention is warranted for Ali Ahmad al-Razihi in order to protect against a continuing significant threat to the security of the United States.

TRANS 1: **[Translation of above.]**

PM: This periodic review board hearing session is unclassified. Classified documents and classified discussions relating to classified information shall not be presented or discussed during the unclassified session of this hearing.

TRANS 1: **[Translation of above.]**

PM: Ali, this is your periodic review board to determine whether continued law of war detention is warranted in your case. Your continued law of war detention will be warranted if such detention is necessary to protect against a continuing significant threat to the national security of the United States. The focus of this hearing is on the threat you may pose

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to the United States and its interests if transferred or released from U.S. custody, and not on the lawfulness of your detention.

TRANS 1: **[Translation of above.]**

PM: The personal representatives are your representatives to assist you during this process. There is no private counsel today.

Finally, the translators ensure that everyone understands your statements and that you understand what is being said here during the hearing.

TRANS 1: **[Translation of above.]**

PM: Personal representatives, has the detainee had an opportunity to review the unclassified summary?

TRANS 1: **[Translation of above.]**

PR: Yes.

PM: Thank you.

I will now read for the record the unclassified summary:

Ali Ahmad al-Razihi, prior to his capture in December 2001, traveled in 1999 from Yemen to Afghanistan where he almost certainly joined and trained with Al-Qaeda. He subsequently almost certainly provided logistical support at Al-Qaeda guesthouses and, according to a detainee reporting with

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questionable credibility, possibly served as a bodyguard for Osama bin Laden. The detainee throughout his time at the Guantanamo Bay Detention Facility, however, consistently has denied involvement with Al-Qaeda or any other extremist group.

The detainee, prior to his detention, almost certainly wrote from Afghanistan to his family that he intended to participate in jihad, and that his aliases were listed on several Al-Qaeda training applications, rosters, and personnel forms, according to a review of documents recovered by U.S. forces in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Information from other Guantanamo detainees provides further insight into the detainee's training and his activity at Al-Qaeda safe houses.

FBI and other interviews of Guantanamo detainees identified that the detainee served as a bodyguard for bin Laden, although one of them later recanted this allegation. The detainee, during his detention, has posed a low threat toward guard personnel. The detainee has not provided information regarding Al-Qaeda operations in Afghanistan and Pakistan. He is non-cooperative and has avoided interviews since 2010. It is difficult to provide an accurate reengagement assessment.

If repatriated to Yemen, the detainee probably would return to his hometown of Taiz, which has experienced modest levels of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula activity during the

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past year. The detainee, through his detention, has expressed nonextremist aspirations for his life after transfer. We lack sufficient information to assess whether his stated intentions are genuine.

TRANS 1: **[Translation of above.]**

PM: Do the personal representatives wish to make an unclassified opening statement in this unclassified session?

TRANS 1: **[Translation of above.]**

PR: Yes.

TRANS 2: **[Translation of above.]**

PM: Thank you.

I would like to remind all participants that any information shared at this time must be unclassified. If there is a concern about the classification of the information, I will indicate such, and proceedings will stop until the classification issue is resolved.

TRANS 1: **[Translation of above.]**

PM: Personal representatives, you may proceed with your opening statement.

TRANS 1: **[Translation of above.]**

PR: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen of the board, we are the personal representatives for Ali Ahmad Muhammad al-Razihi.

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TRANS 2: **[Translation of above.]**

PR: To my left is our translator [REDACTED].

TRANS 2: **[Translation of above.]**

PR: We have met with Mr. al-Razihi for over 40 hours over the past three months. Mr. al-Razihi has obviously been eager to participate and has worked very closely with us to participate in the periodic review board process.

TRANS 2: **[Translation of above.]**

PR: Today, we will present our case without the aid of private counsel. This is at the request of Ali. He is eager to demonstrate to the board in the most straightforward way that he is a peaceful man.

TRANS 2: **[Translation of above.]**

PR: Also, my client would like to share that he fully trusts the support and guidance of his military personal representatives. The trust he has demonstrated in us is one of many contributing factors that persuade us to believe that Ali should no longer be considered a continued significant threat to the United States.

TRANS 2: **[Translation of above.]**

PR: Furthermore, I would like to expound on some of the other factors that I would like you to consider in deciding Ali's case.

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TRANS 2: **[Translation of above.]**

PR: First, my client is a compliant detainee. He resides in part of the camp where detainees live in communal conditions. In the past few months, Ali has completely turned his attention, focus, and preparation towards a peaceful transition back to Yemen.

TRANS 2: **[Translation of above.]**

PR: He has mentioned to me many times that he desires to go back to Yemen and become a constructive member of his hometown Taiz.

TRANS 2: **[Translation of above.]**

PR: He also feels that his incarceration has left him behind many of his peers from his homeland who have gone on to establish their own homes, families, and career. Now, he wants to catch up with his peers.

To do this, my client has developed three main goals to accomplish upon his return to Yemen.

TRANS 2: **[Translation of above.]**

PR: First, understandably, my client wants to get married.

TRANS 2: **[Translation of above.]**

PR: Ali has never been married; and as you see in family correspondence in Exhibit 1, luckily enough, his father already has arranged a bride. And his bride to be awaits his return.

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TRANS 2: **[Translation of above.]**

PR: It also appears that Ali's father would like to marry again, but he waits for his son's return before doing so.

TRANS 2: **[Translation of above.]**

PR: Ali's second goal is to work on his education.

TRANS 2: **[Translation of above.]**

PR: Through many meetings with Ali, it is apparent that he has a keen business acumen. He wants to understand marketing better so that he can expand his father's fruit and vegetable business.

TRANS 2: **[Translation of above.]**

PR: Extension of his father's business is my client's third goal. And Ali has created a business plan for expanding his father's business.

TRANS 2: **[Translation of above.]**

PR: The major and I aided Ali in developing a business strategy PowerPoint presentation to better illustrate his ideas to the board. Due to the language issues -- excuse me. The board members have that for review in Exhibit 2.

TRANS 2: **[Translation of above.]**

PR: One of the major points that I would like to emphasize is that Ali wanted to develop a plan that is obtainable. This is not a multimillion-dollar project. It's a plan that can be



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executed with little help and can be strategically expanded and grown if he is present to oversee its development.

TRANS 2: **[Translation of above.]**

PR: During the time I spent meeting and talking with Ali, I've been moved by the way that he is determined to make something good come out of his detention. The very inspiration for his business plan came from the food service here at Guantanamo Bay.

His spirit is the will that helps him survive here every day.

TRANS 2: **[Translation of above.]**

PR: My client's detention has not been without sad news from home. His mother passed while he's been incarcerated; furthermore, his older brother has an extreme disability which has increased the burden and workload on Ali's elderly father and amplified the need for another valuable and dependable family member to bolster the al-Razihi household. Please refer to Exhibit 3 for more details on his brother's condition.

TRANS 2: **[Translation of above.]**

PR: Finally, I recently had a telephone conversation with Ali's middle brother about his transition back to Yemen should the board recommend Ali's transfer.

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Through the conversation, which I've summarized in Exhibit 5, his middle brother has expressed a desire to help with Ali's transition back to Yemen not only financially, but also assisting in marital arrangements and by finding a safe place for him to live.

TRANS 2: **[Translation of above.]**

PR: This desire to help is also seen in familial correspondence we've provided to the board members in Exhibit 4. His brother also explained that, with the elderly state of his father, Ali would have to help with the family business. Moreover, Ali would be a critical piece in the support of the family due to his father's condition. Family, as the board knows, is essential to my client's culture.

TRANS 2: **[Translation of above.]**

PR: You, no doubt, already reviewed the historical information that led to my client's detention here at Guantanamo Bay. As you review the documentation we've provided and have the opportunity to have Ali speak to you and respond to your questions, I urge you to consider the entire spectrum, not just the past, as you determine your recommendation.

TRANS 2: **[Translation of above.]**

PR: He's a man with a lot of work to do at home and a family support group more than ready to ensure he moves back to

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a critical support role. Ali is a man with attainable goals and a drive to catch up with the personal and professional growth already accomplished by his peers.

TRANS 2: **[Translation of above.]**

PR: He's ready to live out the rest of his days as a peaceful man, a family man, an entrepreneur and no longer should be considered a continued significant threat to the United States of America.

TRANS 2: **[Translation of above.]**

PM: Thank you.

We understand the board members may reserve questions until the detainee and witness statements have been presented in their entirety.

TRANS 1: **[Translation of above.]**

PM: With this understanding, does any member of the board have a question for the personal representatives in this session?

TRANS 1: **[Translation of above.]**

PM: Do we have any questions?

Seeing no questions, this concludes this portion of the hearing. I would request that all members remain seated until further instructed by the hearing clerk.

TRANS 1: **[Translation of above.]**

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CLERK: We will take a 15-minute recess to prepare for the remaining sessions.

TRANS 1: [Translation of above.]

[The public session closed at 0933, 20 March 2014.]

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ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYM KEY

BM: BOARD MEMBER  
DET: DETAINEE  
PC: PRIVATE COUNSEL  
PM: PRESIDING MEMBER  
PR: PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE  
TRANS 1: TRANSLATOR ONE (LOCATED AT PRS HQ)  
TRANS 2: TRANSLATOR TWO (LOCATED AT GUANTANAMO BAY)