

April 16, 2016,  
Dear Periodic Review Board,

I understand that Mohamadou Slahi is scheduled for a hearing before the Periodic Review Board. I am writing this letter in support of his effort to be released from the prison in Guantanamo Bay. I am pleased to provide you my observations about him, consistent with my obligations to the United States Military. I am confident that there is more I could provide that would be helpful for you and supportive of him but it would require doing so in a secure forum. I served for several years in the United States military in the early years of this century, including ten months as a guard at the prison in Guantanamo Bay. While there, I interacted with numerous prisoners. One prisoner I got to know reasonably well was Mohamedou Slahi. Mohamedou and us guards at the time did not have a normal guard/detainee relationship based on the circumstances of his detention. We had the chance to spend hours and hours, face to face getting to know each other.

Before my assignment to Guantanamo, I had heard that the men I would be guarding were the worst of the worst and that they would likely hate me and everything the United States and I stood for. I expected to find angry and brutal men. In no way did I experience that with Mohamedou.

I have read Mr. Slahi's account of his treatment in Guantanamo and his descriptions of the abuse he suffered during interrogations and in his first months in the prison. I would have expected a person who experienced such treatment to be angry and hostile.

My experience with Mr. Slahi was nothing of the sort. I found Mr. Slahi to be polite, friendly, and respectful. For some time, I had the opportunity to interact with Mr. Slahi on a daily basis. I observed Mr. Slahi to maintain a good sense of humor despite his surroundings. We spoke about many things, including sharing our views about life. I did not see or hear support for violence or fundamentalist Islam from him.

During my time serving in Guantanamo, my wife gave birth to our daughter. I was quite proud and pleased. Because I had developed a relationship as human beings with Mr. Slahi, I shared the fact of her birth with him. He was openly pleased for me and able to express compassion and empathy.

I have learned that the habeas corpus court granted Mr. Slahi's petition more than five years ago and held that there was no evidence that justified his imprisonment. I was quite pleased and believed that decision was consistent with American values. I was saddened when I then learned that the decision was remanded by the Court of Appeals and that his case is still pending.

Based on my interactions with Mr. Slahi while in Guantanamo, I would be pleased to welcome him into my home. Based on my interactions, I do not have safety concerns if I were to do so. I would like the opportunity to eventually see him again.

I would be pleased to speak with you in person at Mr. Slahi's hearing if that would be helpful.  
Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Ph- [REDACTED]

Email- [REDACTED]