

Summarized Administrative Review Board Detainee Statement

This Administrative Review Board had been rescheduled from 2 March 2005 to permit health care personnel to address the Detainee's complaints of back pain.

The Presiding Officer read the Hearing Instructions to the Detainee and confirmed that he understood and had no questions.

The Assisting Military Officer presented Exhibit EC-A, the Enemy Combatant Notification Form to the Administrative Review Board. The AMO then presented Exhibit EC-B, the Enemy Combatant Election Form to the Administrative Review Board.

The Designated Military Officer presented Exhibits DMO-1, the Unclassified Summary of Information. He then gave a brief description of the contents of Exhibit DMO-1. The Designated Military Officer confirmed that he had no additional unclassified information to present and requested a closed session to present classified information relevant to the disposition of the Detainee.

The Presiding Officer opened the Administrative Review Board for the Detainee to present information with the assistance of the Assisting Military Officer.

Assisting Military Officer: The Detainee has provided a written statement, and would later like to make an oral statement. Before that, I'd like to read his comments from the interview when he was shown the Unclassified Summary of Information.

The Assisting Military Officer then read the following comments from Exhibit EC-A, the Enemy Combatant Notification Form.

In response to the allegation he expressed interest in fighting the jihad in Palestine and would like to go there and fight the jihad when he is released, the Detainee stated he never said he would go and fight the jihad if released. All he said was that the Palestinian people are innocent and they have the right to defend their country.

Regarding the statement that he is a Yemen citizen who was recruited to travel to Afghanistan for jihad readiness military training, the Detainee stated he is a citizen of Yemen, but did not travel to Afghanistan for the purpose of fighting for jihad. His travel was for financial reasons. He was struggling financially, and was seeking employment. He had previously completed his third year of college with a major in Arabic literature, and was hoping to teach the Arabic language in an Afghan school. He chose to seek employment in Afghanistan because other Arab Muslim countries require diplomas or degrees, while Afghanistan does not. He went to the training camp because when he first entered Afghanistan, he was told it was a country with a great deal of fighting, and Afghan people he met suggested he get some training for purposes of self-defense.

In response to the allegation that he received training at the al Farouq Training Camp on the operation and maintenance of various weapons, and on tactics, geography and map symbols, the Detainee stated that it was true that he attended that camp. He received training on weapons and how to put up a tent, but did not receive any training regarding tactics, geography, or map symbols.

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Regarding the statement that while he was at al Farouq that Usama Bin Laden and a group of guards came to visit, the Detainee stated that Usama Bin Laden never visited him personally at that camp or any other place.

In response to the allegation that his name was on a document listing 324 Arabic names, aliases and nationalities recovered from a safehouse raid of suspected al Qaida in Karachi, Pakistan; the Detainee stated that he had nothing to add because he had no knowledge of that list.

Regarding the statement that he sustained injuries as a result of U.S. bombing near Jalalabad and was eventually detained by U.S. forces in a hospital in Jalalabad, the Detainee said that while walking he received injuries to his left foot from the bombing. He surrendered himself to Afghan people in civilian clothes, and they took him to a hospital in Jalalabad. Americans then came and told them they were going to take him to a place where he could receive better treatment. They took him to Bagram, then Kandahar, and then here to Guantanamo.

In response to the allegation that he attended training at al Farouq because he wanted to support the Taliban in their struggle against the Northern Alliance, the Detainee stated he attended training at al Farouq for reasons of self-defense. Although he went to Afghanistan for financial reasons, he wanted to be able to defend himself should the Northern Alliance attack the Taliban. He was in the country of the Taliban, and the Northern Alliance would not differentiate who was who if they attacked.

In response to the statement that he supported the Taliban because he thought they were good Muslims, the Detainee stated that he went to Afghanistan thinking it was a good Muslim country with good Muslim people. He did not know much about the Taliban.

He agreed with the statement that he had claimed training was only a prerequisite to obtaining employment in Afghanistan, and that he did not know the camp was affiliated with al Qaida or Usama Bin Laden.

He stated he has no animosity or hatred towards the American people or the United States, and feels that his treatment by Americans while he has been in detention has been fair and good. He believes America's entrance into Afghanistan is a good gesture as long as America is trying to help the Afghani people with their predicament with the Taliban.

He stated that if he were to be released, he would want to return to Taiz, Yemen, and seek employment. Since it is difficult to find a job related to Middle Eastern literature, his goal would be to find a profession related to agriculture or carpentry.

This concluded the Detainee statement as presented by the Assisting Military Officer.

The Presiding Officer then addressed the Detainee to ask if he wished to make a statement.

Detainee: What do you mean?

Presiding Officer: Do you wish to provide anything other than what was just given?

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Detainee: No, sir; I have nothing else to add.

Presiding Officer: Did the Assisting Military Officer's statement provide us with the information you wanted us to hear?

Detainee: Yes, sir.

Presiding Officer: Assisting Military Officer, do you have any questions for the Detainee?

Assisting Military Officer: No sir, I do not.

Presiding Officer: Designated Military Officer, do you have any questions for the Detainee?

Designated Military Officer: Yes, sir.

Designated Military Officer Questions to the Detainee.

Designated Military Officer: In what mode did you travel to Afghanistan in July 2001?

Detainee: I have mentioned previously before, and you have it in my file.

Designated Military Officer: That file is not in evidence here; did you fly?

Detainee: Yes, of course.

Designated Military Officer: How much did your travel cost?

Detainee: I don't remember exactly.

Designated Military Officer: Did it seem like a lot of money, or just a little bit of money?

Detainee: A little money.

Designated Military Officer: In 2001, how much would an Arabic teacher expect to earn in Afghanistan?

Detainee: I think probably around \$100 per month.

Designated Military Officer: Where did you learn that teachers could make that much money?

Detainee: Something I presumed myself; I really thought that's how much I'd make.

Designated Military Officer: So nobody told you that would be how much you could make in Afghanistan?

Detainee: I never heard it from anybody.

Designated Military Officer: So without knowing how much you'd make in Afghanistan as a teacher, you flew to Afghanistan? That's your story?

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Detainee: No, sir. That's correct.

Designated Military Officer: At any point in your detention while in U.S. custody, do you recall giving any other reason for military training in Afghanistan?

Detainee: No, sir. I do not understand.

Designated Military Officer: Have you ever told interrogators a different reason for training other than what you have told us today?

Detainee: I don't remember.

Board Members Questions to the Detainee.

Board Member: You have indicated that you believe the Palestinian country should be able to defend their country; what do you consider the Palestinian country?

Detainee: It's just a country that should fall under international law so they could have their humanitarian rights.

Board Member: But they don't have a country now, do they?

Detainee: They live in their land now.

Board Member: But there isn't a Palestinian country or nation; the land area is called Palestine, correct?

Detainee: I really don't have any political background.

Board Member: When you went to al Farouq Training Camp, did they ever suggest anywhere else to train besides there?

Detainee: Nobody told me of any other place.

Board Member: How long were you at al Farouq training?

Detainee: About a month and one week.

Board Member: Usama Bin Laden didn't visit you personally, but did you see him in the training camp?

Detainee: Yes, I did.

Board Member: When you went to Afghanistan to teach Arabic, did you speak Pashtu to be able to do that?

Detainee: I don't understand Pashtu, but most of them speak Arabic.

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Board Member: In three years of Arabic literature studies in college, did you ever learn anything about the Taliban?

Detainee: Never.

Board Member: Did you have a job in Yemen before you went to Afghanistan?

Detainee: I looked and looked, but I couldn't find a job.

Board Member: So you didn't have a job in Yemen?

Detainee: No.

Board Member: Where did you get the money to buy your plane ticket?

Detainee: The same person that gave me advice to go just loaned me some money.

Presiding Officer: Who was that? What was his name?

Detainee: His name was Mustapha Sharaby; he was a Yemeni.

Presiding Officer: I'd like to go back to your second or third question in regards to what state or country the Palestinians would defend. Iran is a country, but we're not sure what country Palestine is that you might be defending.

Detainee: I never said I'd go to any place in Palestine, or any country.

Presiding Officer: Okay; I'm not going to beat a dead horse there. Your trip to Afghanistan was for financial reasons; how much money did you take with you?

Detainee: One or two hundred dollars; I don't know.

Presiding Officer: The five weeks training in weapons you had was for defending yourself?

Detainee: Yes.

Presiding Officer: How much did it cost, if anything, for you to get that training?

Detainee: Nothing.

Presiding Officer: If it cost you nothing, then who did you think was paying for the bullets and weapons you were training on if it wasn't for the Taliban as a force?

Detainee: The Taliban.

Presiding Officer: So they were going to finance your training, just so you could defend yourself in Afghanistan?

Detainee: The people I met told me that the Taliban were the ones who forced this kind of thing.

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Presiding Officer: Okay. How's your back today?

Detainee: Good.

Board Member: Do you still consider the Taliban good Muslims?

Detainee: No, sir; they're not.

Presiding Officer: I take it you're not playing much soccer since you got hurt?

Detainee: Not recently; because the last time I got hurt.

Presiding Officer: Okay; thank you.

The Presiding Officer then read the post-Administrative Board instructions to the Detainee, and adjourned the open session of the Board.

AUTHENTICATION

I certify the material contained in this transcript is a true and accurate summary of the testimony given during the proceedings.



Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Presiding Officer

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