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Summary of Administrative Review Board Proceedings for ISN 653

*The Administrative Review Board was called to order.*

*The Designated Military Officer (DMO) was sworn.*

*The Board Reporter was sworn.*

*The Translator was sworn.*

*The Detainee entered the proceedings.*

*The Presiding Officer announced the convening authority and purpose of the Administrative Review Board proceedings.*

*The Administrative Review Board members were sworn.*

*The Assisting Military Officer (AMO) was sworn.*

*The Presiding Officer asked the Detainee if he wishes to make a statement under oath. Muslim oath offered.*

*The Detainee accepted taking the Muslim oath.*

*The Presiding Officer read the hearing instructions to the Detainee and confirmed that he understood.*

*The Assisting Military Officer presented the Enemy Combatant Notification form, Exhibit EC-A, to the Administrative Review Board.*

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

Presiding Officer: Assisting Military Officer please read your comments from the Enemy Combatant Election Form.

Assisting Military Officer: The detainee's initial ARB interview occurred on 13 September 2005, in Camp V and lasted two hours. After a review of the ARB purpose and procedures, the Arabic translation of the Unclassified Summary of Evidence was read to the detainee, who followed along on his copy. The detainee chose to attend the ARB and answer any allegations as they were presented on the Unclassified Summary as well as answer any questions the board members may have for him. The detainee was cooperative and polite throughout the interview. The detainee alleged abuse while in the custody of the Taliban in Kabul, Afghanistan. The allegation of abuse was reported in accordance with OARDEC Memorandum. The detainee retained a copy of the

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Unclassified Summary of Evidence in both English and Arabic. A follow-up interview to verify the accuracy of translation was held on 14 September 2005, and lasted one hour. After considering all the allegations against him in the Unclassified Summary, the detainee felt that even if he could refute 23 allegations, the 24th would keep him in detention and that any attempt on his part would result in failure. The AMO pointed out that the detainee's presence at the board represented a significant opportunity, and that the detainee would make a better impression on the board than the AMO would on his behalf, but the detainee remained adamant, even requesting the AMO not present any information on the detainee's behalf to the board. Another interview occurred 14 September 2005, and lasted about 20 minutes at which time the detainee agreed to attend the ARB.

Presiding Officer: Is it still your request that the AMO not present information on your behalf?

Detainee: If he can explain things better than me. But I am prepared to present it by myself. If he has additional things to say for me, he is more than welcomed.

*The Designated Military Officer presented the Unclassified Summary of Evidence, Exhibit DMO-1, and DMO-2, to the Administrative Review Board.*

*The Designated Military Officer stated that a copy of these exhibits had been previously distributed to the Assisting Military Officer and Detainee.*

*The Presiding Officer noted from the Enemy Combatant Election Form that the Detainee wanted to respond to each item of information from the Unclassified Summary as it was presented.*

*The Designated Military Officer gave a brief description of the contents of the Unclassified Summary of Evidence, Exhibit DMO-1 to the Administrative Review Board to assist the Detainee with answering the statements.*

Designated Military Officer: The detainee stayed at the "Arabic House" in Kabul with 30 to 35 other fighters. He was given a Kalashnikov rifle and performed guard duties. He took orders from Abdel Aziz and Abut Hamza, who received their orders from Abdul al Hadi al Iraqi.

Detainee: This is 75 percent not true. So, it's false.

Designated Military Officer: Abdul Hadi al Iraqi was a member of al Qaida and part of Usama Bin Laden's inner circle. He commanded 200 Arab and Taliban fighters in Kabul, and was also responsible for sending Arab fighters to Chechnya.

Detainee: It has nothing to do with my case, this Abdul Hadi. Whoever he is, he has nothing to do with me.

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Presiding Officer: The record indicates a non-responsive answer.

Detainee: May I clarify?

Presiding Officer: This is your chance to clarify any misconception.

Detainee: I'd like to explain. The first point, you asked about the house that I was in, and you remember that Abdul Hadi has a relationship with Abu Hamza. But if you mean that I have a relationship or I got my orders from Abu Hamza and Abu Hamza has a relationship with Abdul Hadi, that does not mean that Abdul Hadi has a relationship with me. So, Abdul Hadi has nothing to do with my case.

Presiding Officer: All right. The clarification is noted for the record. Thank you.

Designated Military Officer: In 1999, the detainee fought on the front line north of Kabul with an Arab unit for approximately three and a half months. The Taliban supported this unit with food, drinks, ammunition, and a truck. Al Qaida supported the fighters by providing logistical support and access to the Walam Bacha safe house in Kabul for rest and relaxation.

Detainee: Point one says I was in this house with 35 people. In the third one, it says in 1999, I was fighting. I wasn't fighting in this house. At the end of 1999, there wasn't any fight between Taliban and the Northern Alliance. So, I mean that I was in that house, but there wasn't fighting.

Presiding Officer: I note you speak English. Would you be comfortable without the interpreter?

Detainee: I will be comfortable, and also if I need something, I will ask her.

Presiding Officer: The interpreter is hereby directed not to translate unless specifically requested.

Designated Military Officer: The detainee was a weapons engineer on the front lines, repairing small arms for the Taliban.

Detainee: False.

Designated Military Officer: The detainee was in charge of Usama Bin Laden's weapon depots in Kandahar and Kabul from 1999 to 2000.

Detainee: False.

Designated Military Officer: The detainee was responsible for the storage of cash, weapons, and ammunition for Usama Bin Laden.

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Detainee: No.

Designated Military Officer: The detainee had control of the keys to the weapons storage container at the Gulam Bacha guesthouse in Kabul. The detainee was also a trainer of soldiers in the tactics of entering a structure and arresting or detaining persons in the given structure.

Detainee: Not right.

Presiding Officer: Any clarification on those?

Detainee: Unfortunately, forgive me. I have something to say about all of these things, but if you want me to answer if it is right or not, I will.

Presiding Officer: We'll just move on and then we'll come back.

Detainee: Thank you very much.

Designated Military Officer: The detainee claimed he was an al Qaida member who worked for Usama Bin Laden for 13 years conducting weapons maintenance.

Detainee: False.

Designated Military Officer: The detainee claimed he was an expert in the areas of poisons, explosives, martial arts, and weapons. The detainee claimed to have carried out an operation in Kuwait in which he blew up a building he believed was being used by the Israelis. He also boasted of kidnapping a Kuwaiti Intelligence Office to gain the release of one of his comrades being held in a Kuwaiti prison. The detainee claimed to have taken up jihad in the Philippines, Chechnya, and Bosnia.

Detainee: False.

Designated Military Officer: The detainee claimed he was a mechanical engineer for weapons with al Qaida. He claimed he went to London for al Qaida.

Detainee: This is not right.

Designated Military Officer: The detainee claimed he was an al Qaida member who ate frequently with Usama Bin Laden. He also stated he had specific knowledge of the al Qaida organization and the attacks on the World Trade Center. He claimed he traveled to England, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Malaysia. The detainee claimed he was a third-degree black belt in Tai Kwon Do, which he learned while in Malaysia.

Detainee: This is not right.

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Designated Military Officer: While in the Iraqi Army, the detainee received training on the following weapons: AK-47 rifle, 7.62mm PK machine gun, and 82mm, 120mm and 160mm mortars.

Detainee: Yes, I have something to say about this. It is right that I was in the Iraqi Army in 1993 and 1994, two years. It is right that I got training for the Kalashnikov, but it is not right that I have training on the other three things. I want to let you know how this was done. The interrogator was asking me when I got training in the Saddam Army, the Iraqi Army, he said, "What is the weapons training about in the camp?" I told him this kind and this kind and this kind, and unfortunately he may have misunderstood and thought that I said I trained on these.

Presiding Officer: Very good. I am crossing out that you have training in these other weapons and noting that you have training with AK-47s.

Designated Military Officer: The detainee received specialized training in poisons at the al Farouq Camp.

Detainee: I haven't seen al Farouq Camp in my life.

Designated Military Officer: After fleeing the Iraqi Army and being held by the Kurds, the detainee said he provided a fake last name of Al Hashimi.

Detainee: Yes, this is right.

Designated Military Officer: The detainee's kunya nickname was Islam.

Detainee: Yes.

Designated Military Officer: Islam Abdul Rahman Al Hashimi is a known al Qaida member and chemical specialist. One of al Hashimi's associates is Abu Bassam, an Iraqi businessman who supported Al Hashimi financially.

Detainee: This is true that my nickname is Islam Abdul Rahman Al Hashimi, but the second thing that I am a member of the al Qaida is not right.

Designated Military Officer: The detainee had a close relationship with an Iraqi Kurd known as Abu Bassam.

Detainee: I haven't heard this name before.

Designated Military Officer: Abu Bassam was a member of Usama Bin Laden's inner circle. He met frequently with al Qaida members and Bin Laden, and knew about the 11 September 2001 attack on the United States prior to its occurrence.

Detainee: This false.

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Designated Military Officer: An al Qaida member identified the detainee as an al Qaida contact in Kabul.

Presiding Officer: This is asking if someone identified you, not whether the underlying allegation is true. Did someone identify you?

Detainee: I do not know personally, but maybe it's possible.

Designated Military Officer: The detainee claimed to be an understudy of Sheik Abdullah Azzam.

Detainee: This is not right. I will explain. Number 7 and Number 8, this guy that is named Abdullah Azzam died in 1987. At this time, my age is 28 years. So at that time, I was a little kid.

Presiding Officer: Noted.

Designated Military Officer: Abdullah Azzam led a successful campaign to recruit rich young Saudis using a three-tape series he released in 1987. He called individuals to follow Usama Bin Laden by imitating his devotion to Islamic jihad, both physically and financially.

Detainee: The same as Number 5 and Number 2.

Designated Military Officer: Abdul Rahim Janko was tortured by al Qaida and eventually told them he and the detainee were spies for the United States. The detainee was also tortured by al Qaida, but never admitted to being a spy.

Detainee: True.

Designated Military Officer: The Taliban imprisoned the detainee for two years at Sarpooza prison. During Ramadan when the Taliban fell, the detainee was transferred to Kabul and was imprisoned for three months.

Detainee: True.

Designated Military Officer: The Northern Alliance turned the detainee over to the Americans on 8 June 2002.

Detainee: Yes, I was sent here to Cuba at that time.

Designated Military Officer: The detainee claimed he was not a member of al Qaida, never swore bayat to Usama Bin Laden, received no training or fought for al Qaida, and he was not an expert on poisons.

Detainee: This is true.

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Designated Military Officer: The detainee believes his enemies have wrongly accused him of being an al Qaida member.

Detainee: Yes.

Designated Military Officer: This concludes the Unclassified Summary.

*The Designated Military Officer confirmed that he had no further unclassified information and requested a closed session to present classified information relevant to the disposition of the Detainee.*

*The Presiding Officer acknowledged the request.*

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

*The Detainee made the following statement:* Before I start, I want to say sorry to the AMO because I defend myself. I told him I don't want him to say what I said, but I found a better idea to make you understand me better. I like to use examples because I don't speak English very well. I drew a tree. (Showing the Board a drawing of a tree). I drew the roots of the tree and moved up to the branches. The branches are the 23 charges against me. Most of the charges said I was or I claimed. If I say I was or I claimed, I want to explain to the American people that another detainee said that I claimed. For example, she told you that I told her this thing. If they said something, I haven't said anything. Just the things that I told you are right, then they are right. Other charges, when you search about the roots, you will find that 100 percent someone said something like, "Detainee Arkan said this thing." And if you ask why did this detainee say this about me, and you would measure that this detainee has known me before this prison, he would have to show if he's saying what is right or not. This is one thing that I want to tell you. I am from Shia people. It's a different religion.

Presiding Officer: The Board is well aware of the animosity and we understand that.

Detainee: Thank you very much. The reason they brought me to Cuba is not because I did something. They brought me from Taliban prison to get information from me about the Iraqi Army before the United States went to Iraq. I was without any charge. But unfortunately, they didn't measure that they would put me in the middle of my enemy. I was in their prison for three years, and I will show you the scar (lifting his pant leg to show a scar on his leg). And I also have one on the other leg. These people had tortured me, and they put me in prison, and told me that I am spying for the American people. They put me in there since 2000. At last, if you read all my history, you will know that I have no friends in this camp at all; most of them, if they don't give me a hard time or they don't give me a problem, they will not talk to me. But also, they've threatened me more than five or six times. They will say things about me; I don't know what they will say. And if we, all of us, look at how this charge is organized you will see that something

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is very difficult. If you will measure my age, one charge says that I have been for 13 years for the al Qaida. My age is 28 years, and if you take six years from 20 years--six years I have been in prison, and you measure one more, my age was 19 years. When I was in Iraqi Army I went for two years at 19 years, so how you can believe I was in al Qaida for 13 years? And I was in the Army for two years, '93 and '94. If you measure between there, and that I know someone named Abdullah Azzam that has died in 1987, and my age is 28.

Presiding Officer: Let me ask you this. All the Board Members and the DMO have questions they would like to ask you. Perhaps it would be more productive if we went to that portion. I will allow you a period to make a conclusion statement if you would like. Is that okay with you?

Detainee: Good.

Presiding Officer: Does that conclude your statement for now then?

Detainee: It does not conclude my statement. I would like to clarify some more.

Presiding Officer: Very well. We will do our questions and then the board will grant you your request to conclude.

Detainee: Okay.

***The Assisting Military Officer had no further information to present or questions for the Detainee.***

***The Designated Military Officer had the following questions for the Detainee:***

Designated Military Officer: Why did you desert from the Iraqi Army and then later join the Taliban?

Detainee: I left the Iraqi Army because my social status was not good. My home was in the south and my place in the Army was in the north. I didn't have money. When they give me my salary, I had to spend all of it on the way home. When I reached there, I had to work at least for five days until I got money to come back. Also, in the Iraqi Army it was a very difficult life, not like another Army. I think you know about Saddam's Army. So, for that reason, when I was like 18 or 19 years, I thought I would escape from the Iraqi Army, I will have my freedom and I will have everything that I want. I wasn't thinking. Unfortunately, I felt myself like a small bird in a cage and when I come outside the Army, unfortunately, I saw the light is outside of Iraq. I was waiting for the Saddam government to fail or change to go back to my home. Unfortunately, after I went from the Iraqi Army, I went to Kurdistan (*North Iraq*). In Kurdistan (*North Iraq*), it was a very difficult life for work. There was no work, and also no place to live in peace because they were fighting each other.

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Presiding Officer: So, was that a bad decision then to leave Iraq and go to Kurdistan (*North Iraq*)?

Detainee: Yes, it was a very bad decision.

Presiding Officer: But you did it?

Detainee: Yes, I did it because I was 19 years. I didn't think about my family, my mother, my brothers. And unfortunately, when I measure life in Kurdistan (*North Iraq*), I couldn't live there.

Presiding Officer: Let me stop you there, because you're getting non-responsive to his question. He has more questions.

Designated Military Officer: You left one Army because you didn't like the conditions, but then a few years later you joined the Taliban?

Detainee: I'm going to explain. When I saw the difficult life in Kurdistan (*North Iraq*), I went to Iran because there was an easy life with work. I was sitting in Iran with other Iraqis; maybe there were many Iraqi people, all of them escaped from Iraq. I think you know that. Unfortunately, the Iran government was following the Iraqi people that don't have passports or are not legal.

Presiding Officer: So, you were in both Kurdistan (*North Iraq*) and in Iran without a passport?

Detainee: Illegally. And at last time, maybe I cannot tell you exactly, but in 1999, maybe in the beginning or in the middle, the Iran government was searching the illegal Iraqi people, and I went from the place that I worked to Meshed.

Presiding Officer: This is when you were working at a shoe factory?

Detainee: Yes. When I went there, I worked for a few months and they caught me. When they caught me, I know Farsi, and at that time the Iranian government, when they caught the Iraqi people, they gave them to the Iraqi government. And if the Iraqi government caught me, they would kill me. At that time, I had two options: one to say I am Iraqi and one of them to shut up so the Iranian government does not think I'm Iraqi. And unfortunately, they thought I am Afghan and they sent me with the Afghan people to Afghanistan.

Presiding Officer: Okay. Let me stop you there.

Designated Military Officer: I'm interested in understanding why you would join a second army when you had deserted from one earlier?

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Detainee: The first time, I didn't think it was the Taliban Army. They were like normal people. They are Taliban, but not army, like an organized army. And in Afghanistan, I thought that if I went to the Taliban people and I told them that the Iranian people threw me out of the country and would they please help me with some money to go back to Iran. Unfortunately, they said, "You need to be with us a few months, and then you will get salary, some money, and go outside Afghanistan." And they took me to Kabul. Unfortunately, when I was in Kabul, the second month they didn't give me anything. The third month, they didn't give me anything; and after three and a half months in Afghanistan, they caught me and said I was an American spy.

Presiding Officer: Let me stop you again. We've got a number of questions and I want to make sure that we take them in the right order. Some of your responses are partially answering some of the other questions we have.

Board Member: I'd like to clarify. Your contention is that you joined the Taliban Army, but it was unbeknownst to you that you were part of the Taliban Army? Is that what you're saying?

Detainee: No, exactly I didn't enjoy anything from Taliban. Also, when I was there, I was scared. I hid my religion because when I went inside there, I found that they don't like Shia people and I couldn't tell them that I'm Shia. Also, my goal was not to work with the Taliban, my goal was that I thought if they can help me with some money to go back to Iran, but unfortunately, they didn't and I went to prison.

Board Member: How old were you at this time?

Detainee: I must've been 23 or 24.

Designated Military Officer: So, after you were in Afghanistan, did you think that you could just get back over the border into Iran sort of like how you went from Kurdistan (*North Iraq*) into Iran a few years earlier? You were deported into Afghanistan and you were told you could join the Taliban Army and get some money. Did you think you could sort of run back across the border and hide again in Iran and have the same or similar job?

Detainee: Yes, I thought this. I thought that if I found some money, I could go. It was easy for me because I speak the language.

Designated Military Officer: So, did you try to get back in Iran?

Detainee: Yes, I tried, but I couldn't find money to go.

Presiding Officer: How much did it cost?

Detainee: I don't know the dollar amount, but I would guess maybe \$50.

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Presiding Officer: Very good.

Designated Military Officer: You had talked about when you were in Iran and they discovered that you were working there illegally. How were you able to sort of trick them that you were an Afghani and that they would send you back to Afghanistan rather than Iraq?

Detainee: The truth is I didn't trick them. There are two things that helped me. First, I know the language because the Afghani people and the Iranian have the same language, Farsi. And the thing that helped me is that the place that I was was closer to Afghanistan than to Iraq.

Designated Military Officer: Have you heard from your family since you've been here at GTMO?

Detainee: Yes, I have letters and pictures.

Designated Military Officer: And if you were to return to Iraq, what would you do?

Detainee: I have two or three plans for myself. When I go back to my home, I will get married and will make a small home for myself and I will try to open some shop to work. Also, I thought I would have a small café. Also, my interests or hobby is that I draw. I am an artist.

***Administrative Review Board Member's questions:***

Board Member: Mr. Arkan, what is your education level?

Detainee: In Iraq, I studied for the 4th grade in elementary. Outside of school, I was reading and got all of my education from the books that I've read.

Board Member: You've never received any engineering training?

Detainee: No.

Board Member: Why did you use so many aliases?

Detainee: I didn't use any names, just one name Islam Abdul Rahman Al Hashimi. When I went to Kurdistan (*North Iraq*), there was a resistance group against Iraq. I lived with them. They said if anyone lives with them, we are supposed to hide their name because the Iraqi intelligence will hurt our families. That is why I gave this name to myself.

Board Member: What did you do in Kabul for three and a half months?

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Detainee: I was north of Kabul. They called it the front line, but there wasn't any fighting there. There was a house for the people and we were sitting with other people at that house.

Board Member: Is that the Arabic house?

Detainee: I cannot say it is Arabic house. There were some Arabic people there, but I don't think so, because they got food from the Taliban.

Board Member: Have you ever been associated with any known al Qaida member?

Detainee: I swear to God, I was never.

Board Member: Were you ever involved in combat operations at all?

Detainee: Thanks be to God, I've never entered any battle, and when I was there, there was no battle happening.

Board Member: Have you ever been to London?

Detainee: No. The FBI interrogators told me that someone named Saleh Ahmad (3849) who was with me in the Taliban prison said this thing about me.

Presiding Officer: But it's all untrue?

Detainee: It's all untrue.

Presiding Officer: So, what you're saying is that all of the statements that were related by this person who was in prison with you are all lies. Is that right?

Detainee: Everything that they say is a lie. Trust me. I am trying to supply to you as much as possible. Everything you read in this statement that I was or I claimed, I wasn't and I didn't claim to the interrogators. Many detainees will tell you that I claimed or I told them that, but I didn't.

Board Member: Have you ever been to Malaysia?

Detainee: I only went to Kurdistan (*North Iraq*), Iran, and Afghanistan.

Board Member: What are your views and feelings concerning the 911 attack on the World Trade Center?

Detainee: I disagree with this thing. I don't know exactly what happened, only my own information that I know that the Arabic people broke the building and people died. I know these things, but I disagree. My faith and my belief is that in the Koran we are not supposed to kill everybody. You should not kill anyone. It also says an eye for an eye

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and tooth for a tooth. But if we kill you, we will be afraid that we will be killed, too. If you read about the Shia faith, you will not see anything from jihad. We don't believe in these things. We don't have this jihad or killing people or fighting people because of religion.

Board Member: What are your views and feelings concerning Usama Bin Laden?

Detainee: He's a bad person. I don't agree with him. Look what he's done to me. This is all because of Usama Bin Laden.

Board Member: What are your views concerning the United States intervention into Iraq?

Detainee: I am very thankful for the American people, just because they took Saddam from the government. Saddam government for more than 25 years hurt us and injured the Iraqi people. Specifically, when I was a child, my father was tortured in the Army. He went into the Army and didn't come back. He was missing in Iran. Me and my mother and my sisters we couldn't live in Iraq in peace inside a house. We don't have our own house; we rented a house.

Board Member: So, you believe it is a good thing?

Detainee: Yes.

Board Member: Do you support democracy in Iraq?

Detainee: I support democracy.

Board Member: What was your rank in the Iraqi Army?

Detainee: A soldier.

Board Member: What was your job?

Detainee: Infantry.

Board Member: If all the allegations are false, why are you here at Guantanamo?

Detainee: Unfortunately, I am here in Cuba because they forgot the reason they brought me here. If you read in my file you will find that they brought me here to get some information about the al Qaida. Unfortunately, the detainees say something about me, and the interrogators that handle my case from then until now won't believe anything I say because he forgot the reason I came here. Unfortunately, because the interrogators change all the time, most of them don't read the reason that I came here or they don't care most of the time. And also, the detainees say something against me and this is a very difficult thing.

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Board Member: Your education level is 4th grade?

Detainee: Yes.

Board Member: You seem very intelligent, bright, and a good artist?

Detainee: Thank you very much. In my culture, I like to draw and a read a lot of books.

Board Member: So, you really like to learn from books and things of that nature?

Detainee: Yes. Now, if I have the chance to study again in school, I will.

Board Member: In the Iraqi Army, I would assume that you did well because you like to read and you could read about the requirements and the work that went on in the Iraqi Army?

Detainee: Unfortunately, it is not like this. In the Iraqi Army, I was 18 and 19 years old. For two years, I didn't think about that. My financial status at that time didn't let me think about what I wanted to think about because I had to serve in the Army. Also, they gave me a hard time to go back to my family; they didn't let me live my life how I wanted.

Board Member: So, poor pay made it difficult to get home?

Detainee: Yes, exactly.

Board Member: So, you decided to leave the Iraqi Army and go to Kurdistan (*North Iraq*)?

Detainee: Yes.

Board Member: How far was it from where you were stationed to Kurdistan (*North Iraq*)?

Detainee: It is very close; maybe from where I was stationed it was maybe three or four kilometers.

Board Member: So, you walked?

Detainee: Yes. I walked less than two hours to reach there.

Board Member: When you were there, you said it was very difficult to work?

Detainee: Yes. Unfortunately, I didn't see this. I thought that I was new in Kurdistan (*North Iraq*) and I would start over. But, unfortunately at the time, I found that I made a

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very big mistake, not because I escaped from the Army. Unfortunately, I couldn't go back. If I found the chance to go back, I would.

Board Member: So, then you decided to go to Iran?

Detainee: Yes.

Board Member: How did you get to Iran?

Detainee: Between the border of Kurdistan (*North Iraq*) and Iran, there were people smuggling tea. From there, you hide from the Iranian soldiers until you get to the Iranian city there. From this city, you can go by bus. In Kurdistan (*North Iraq*), there is a coffee shop. The people who are taking tea, most of them are in this café. If you want to go to Iran, you just need to tell them, and they will take you to Iran for money.

Board Member: How much money?

Detainee: I don't know exactly, but it was like 18,000 Dinar.

Board Member: How many days did you have to work to make that money?

Detainee: In Kurdistan (*North Iraq*), you need to be with one of companies to get salary. One salary is enough to get there.

Board Member: You worked in Kurdistan (*North Iraq*)?

Detainee: Yes, I was working for 11 months or one year with the INC of Chalabi.

Board Member: So, you did find work in Kurdistan (*North Iraq*)?

Detainee: Yes.

Board Member: How long did you work there before you went to Iran?

Detainee: From the end of 1994 until 1996.

Board Member: You left the Army in 1995? Is that right?

Detainee: In the end of 1994, December.

Board Member: You went to Kurdistan (*North Iraq*) and found a job?

Detainee: It is not like you think of work. There were people against the Iraqi government that were there. Also in 1996, the Iraqi Army went into Kurdistan (*North Iraq*) (*North Iraq*). The one city that they did not come in is called Dehook. When the

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Army came into Kurdistan (*North Iraq*) (*North Iraq*), all of the INC went to Dehook, and from Dehook, they went to Turkey.

Board Member: So, you made more or less money in Kurdistan (*North Iraq*) than the Iraqi Army?

Detainee: More, maybe twice or three times as much. But also all of the INC went to America because the Saddam Army came to Kurdistan (*North Iraq*).

Board Member: So, you went to Iran because you were worried about the Iraqi Army capturing you?

Detainee: Not exactly. It was because the INC, the people that I worked with, all of them went from Kurdistan (*North Iraq*).

Board Member: So, everybody left?

Detainee: Everybody left from Kurdistan (*North Iraq*) to America.

Board Member: And, so, no more work?

Detainee: There is work, but it is very difficult to find work.

Board Member: But you were still working when they left?

Detainee: No, I didn't have work. In 1996, when the Saddam Army invaded Kurdistan (*North Iraq*), the political parties left and went to Turkey.

Board Member: So, what was your motivation to go to Iran?

Detainee: Life was difficult in Kurdistan (*North Iraq*).

Board Member: But it was a better life than you had in the Army?

Detainee: Yes. But it was a better life in Iran than Kurdistan (*North Iraq*).

Board Member: Why didn't you go back home instead of Iran?

Detainee: Unfortunately, I couldn't because the Iraqi Army was at the border. If they caught me, they would kill me or at least put me in a very hard Iraqi prison.

Board Member: So, there wasn't any Iraqi Army on the Iranian border?

Detainee: No.

Board Member: So, you go to Iran. I guess all your money was spent on getting there?

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Detainee: Yes.

Board Member: So, now you're in Iran with no money?

Detainee: I had enough money for one or two days.

Board Member: And you were able to find work there?

Detainee: Yes, it is very easy to find work in Iran.

Board Member: What did you do there?

Detainee: The person that took me from Kurdistan (*North Iraq*) to Iran helped me.

Board Member: What was his name?

Detainee: I don't know. It was a long time ago, but he took me to Iran to a community that was mostly Iraqi POWs that worked there. It was very easy to get a job. I worked for a shoe company.

Board Member: How much money did you make?

Detainee: They gave me every day enough to live with.

Board Member: Who are they?

Detainee: The people I worked for.

Board Member: Do you know the name?

Detainee: I don't remember.

Presiding Officer: Maybe you'll remember later.

Board Member: Do you remember any other people you worked with?

Detainee: A lot of people worked, coming and going.

Board Member: Did you make any friends?

Detainee: Yes. I have friends that lived in the same place.

Board Member: What are their names?

Detainee: One was name Muhammad Najafi. I don't understand why you need my friend's name.

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Board Member: Just some friends that you hung around with while you were not working.

Detainee: Muhammad Najafi was very close to me.

Board Member: So one friend that you remember?

Detainee: I cannot tell you I cannot remember a lot, but he is the person I think about when I answered your question. If you want more, I can't give it to. You asked about a good person that was my friend, and that's this one.

Board Member: A good person or bad person, I don't care. I just want names of friends.

Detainee: Muhammad.

Board Member: Was Muhammad Iraqi?

Detainee: Yes.

Board Member: Did he also go to Afghanistan when the Iranian's came?

Detainee: No. He was legal in Iran.

Board Member: And once the Iranian police began to look for Iraqi illegal people, you decided to go to Afghanistan?

Detainee: No.

Board Member: They wanted you to go to Afghanistan?

Detainee: No. I left the city that I worked in to go to Meshed, because I didn't want them to catch me and put me in prison. When I went to Meshed, I worked there.

Board Member: A different job?

Detainee: The same job. Unfortunately, after two months, they caught me. At the place that I worked, had a verity of nationalities, most of them Afghanis.

Board Member: So, they caught you and said you had to go to Afghanistan?

Detainee: When they caught us, they took everything that we had, money and papers, everything. Most of the people were Afghanis and some Iraqi. I didn't tell them I was Afghan. I just shut up. They knew I spoke Farsi and they thought I was Afghani and they sent me to the border.

Board Member: And now you want to go back home and you have no money?

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Detainee: No money. When they put me on the border, they took everything I had, so I didn't have a choice except to go with these people. We went to the market. I asked what to do now, and they said to go to the Taliban and they will help you and give you some money. So, I went to the Taliban people to ask for help.

Board Member: So, the Taliban said they'd give you money, but you must fight?

Detainee: The Taliban people advised me that they wouldn't give me money, but that if I wanted to stay with the Taliban for a few months, they would give me some salary to go home. Unfortunately, I said okay.

Board Member: How were you captured?

Detainee: I met Abdul Rahim in the house I was in. The Arabic people captured him, and they asked him who helped you, who was with you, and he said a lot of names, and one of them was me. He said that I was spying with him for the United States. This is how they caught us in Kabul. From Kabul, they sent us to Kandahar to the Arabic House. We sat there for two months and fourteen days, and after that, they sent us to Taliban prison.

Presiding Officer: This is when they thought you were working for the Americans?

Detainee: Yes. It was 15 January 2000.

Board Member: Tell me how you were turned over to the Americans?

Detainee: In the end of 2001, we were in a prison that had maybe 800 people. When the Taliban left and the government came to the prison, I was in the second section and they took me from that prison to Kabul. I stayed in that prison for almost three months. After that an American interrogator met me there, and asked me about this thing, and he said that in two weeks we will take you to the American Camp and he brought me to the American Camp.

Board Member: What did he tell you that he was bringing you to the American Camp for?

Detainee: He didn't tell me. He just asked me about my name and my issue, and I explained how I got in prison, and he said, "We will move you to the American Camp in Bagram." And then they moved me after two weeks.

Board Member: So, you basically told him the same story you told me about being in the Iraqi Army?

Detainee: No, they didn't ask me that many questions. They asked me my name and the date I went to Afghanistan, and they asked me about my issue and how I got in the prison. Unfortunately, I told him that they don't like the Iraqi people and they hurt them.

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I told the American interrogator that I know some Arabic that were in Afghanistan and I have some information and if you want to know it, you will take me from this prison. And he said okay.

Board Member: And eventually, you ended up in GTMO?

Detainee: Yes. After three months from the Taliban prison, I went to Bagram for 15 days. After that, they moved me again to Kandahar at the American Camp. I stayed there for two months, and after that they brought me here.

Presiding Officer: How many languages do you speak?

Detainee: Three.

Presiding Officer: English, Farsi, and Arabic?

Detainee: Yes.

Presiding Officer: Any French?

Detainee: No.

Presiding Officer: Portuguese?

Detainee: No.

Presiding Officer: Yesterday afternoon, a lieutenant colonel came to talk to you?

Detainee: Yes.

Presiding Officer: He said something to you that changed your mind, what was it?

Detainee: He said it was a good thing to come to supply my own statement to the Board. At first, I didn't want to come, but after he left, I saw these charges that were made to accuse me.

Presiding Officer: Did you become despondent?

Detainee: After reading all those accusations with the respectful officer, I concluded that a lot of those things were fabricated to condemn me and accuse me, not to bring in the truth or say that I'm innocent. It made me suspicious.

Presiding Officer: What did he tell you? What made you change your mind?

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Detainee: He told me that the most important thing to get released is to make sure that these four important points are told. He told me that all of you understand that they can't say everything about me.

Presiding Officer: Did this gentleman sitting next to you do a good job for you?

Detainee: Yes.

Presiding Officer: Did the translator do a good job for you?

Detainee: Yes.

Presiding Officer: Have the Americans treated you well here?

Detainee: Yes.

Presiding Officer: What kind of shoes did you make?

Detainee: Ladies and men dress shoes.

Presiding Officer: What did you do? Did you sew or cut leather?

Detainee: It was an assembly line. The pieces to make the shoes were already made and came from the main factory. I did the finishing touches, the metal details.

Presiding Officer: I was curious. At this time, I am granting your request to add any conclusions. What else do we need to know?

***The Detainee made the following statement:*** I think I only want you to please read the charges again and measure my age.

Presiding Officer: We got that.

Detainee: I want you to search out the words that said I was and I claimed and find that it was not me that said this, but someone else.

Presiding Officer: Anything else?

Detainee: Thank you very much.

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

***The Presiding Officer opened the classified portion of the session.***

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*The Presiding Officer adjourned the classified portion of the session and the Administrative Review Board was closed for deliberation and voting.*

AUTHENTICATION

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



Colonel, USA  
Presiding Officer

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