

Summary of Administrative Review Board Proceedings for ISN 197

The Administrative Review Board was called to order.

The Detainee entered the proceedings.

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

The Designated Military Officer (DMO) was sworn.

The Board Reporter, Translator, Assisting Military Officer (AMO) and Board Members were sworn.

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

The Detainee declined 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 Notification of the Decision of the Administrative Review Board, 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.

The Assisting Military Officer read the AMO Comments from the Enemy Combatant Election Form, Exhibit EC-B.

Assisting Military Officer: The detainee's ARB interview was conducted on 27 September 2006. After reviewing the ARB's purpose and procedures, the Arabic translated Unclassified Summary of Evidence was read to the detainee. When asked if he wanted to attend the ARB, present a written or oral statement, or have the AMO speak on his behalf, the detainee stated he would attend the ARB. The detainee was very cooperative and polite during the interview. A copy of the English and Arabic translated Unclassified Summary of Evidence, as well as writing templates, were provided to the detainee upon his request. The detainee's follow-up interview was conducted on 28 September 2006. When asked if he still wanted to attend his ARB, the detainee stated that he would attend the ARB. The detainee was still very cooperative and cordial during the follow-up interview and said that he would respond verbally to statements in the Unclassified Summary.

The detainee made the following oral statement in response to the spelling of his name in the Unclassified Summary of Evidence:

The detainee stated that the correct spelling and pronunciation of his name was Younis Chekkouri. The name Ahmad Addullah Al Wazan is a name that was assigned to him by the Pakistanis when he was initially detained and this is the name that appeared on his previous Unclassified Summary.

The detainee made the following general statement in response to paragraph 4 of the Unclassified Summary, "Primary factors favor release or transfer":

The detainee stated that there were factors missing from this Unclassified Summary that were included in the previous Summary that was read to him. 1) The detainee stated that the previous Summary stated that the detainee was a worker in a relief organization. The detainee also said that the summary indicated that a source knew the detainee as a relief worker and that the detainee was not a terrorist. 2) The detainee said that the previous Unclassified Summary stated that the detainee had no knowledge of any internal disturbances, riots or upheavals planned or intended for the camp.

The Designated Military Officer presented the Unclassified Summary of Evidence, Exhibit DMO-1, the FBI Redaction Memorandum, DMO-2, the CITF Redaction Memorandum, DMO-3, and the Terrorist Organization Reference Guide, DMO-4, 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.

Detainee (through translator): I would like the board to call me Younis Chekkouri because my name is not Addullah Al Wazan.

Presiding Officer: We note that for the record; however, we are required to go with the name that we are given.

Detainee (through translator): That's fine. However it seems as though these allegations are presented against someone else. Many allegations on this Unclassified are false just as my name is false. In my last board, I had the assistance of a Farsi translator which again was an error because I do not speak Farsi.

Presiding Officer: We note that as well.

Detainee (through translator): Thank you. I would like to refute all the allegations on the Unclassified and now I would like to read to the board a paragraph that I wrote last year.

Presiding Officer: You will have an opportunity later in this hearing.

Detainee (through translator): Let us continue.

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.

Designated Military Officer: (3) The following factors favor continued detention: (3.a) Commitment. (3.a.1) The detainee said that during 1990 he became active in Jamaat al Tabligh when he decided to travel to Afghanistan to participate in jihad.

Detainee (through translator): This paragraph is composed of two allegations. I consider these allegations questions because I am not a criminal and I did not commit any of these, but I would like to answer each one of them. The first part of this paragraph stated that in 1990 I became active in Jamaat al Tabligh. The second part stated that I decided to travel to Afghanistan to participate in jihad. Here is my answer. I have said it before and I will continue to say the same thing even if I am detained for 20 years, my answer will not change at all. I do not have any connection with Jamaat al Tabligh. I have never been an active member of this organization. However, I had a friend who belonged to this organization. It is a missionary organization that has no connection to terrorism. My friend and I used to socialize and talk about God. Jamaat al Tabligh is internationally known and it is not a terrorist organization. I reiterate that I am not a member of Jamaat al Tabligh. For the second part, I have traveled from Morocco to Pakistan to study. I have never been to Afghanistan. All my documents indicate that I went to the Embassy of Morocco and studied at the Islam University in Islamabad. I never said that I went on jihad in Afghanistan. I did not know what the word jihad meant.

Designated Military Officer: (3.a.2) The detainee said he was a founding member of a group identified as Jamat Mujahedeen Maroc. The group was founded during 1999 in Peshawar, Pakistan.

Detainee (through translator): This allegation is related to the first one under "Connections/Associations". Can you read them together since they are both connected?

Presiding Officer: You can answer this one and we will note the connection between the two when we get to the second one.

Detainee (through translator): I had never heard of the name Jamat Mujahedeen Maroc. I do not believe it exists. I had never heard of GIMC either. The allegation stated that this group was founded in 1999. In 1999 I was in Syria. I was working and I got married there. How can I be in Pakistan and Syria at the same time? There is a paradox between the second paragraph under "Commitment" and the first paragraph under "Connections/Associations". This group was founded in 1999 in Pakistan, but the second paragraph stated that it was founded in 1995 in Sudan. In 1995 I was studying at a university in Islamabad.

Presiding Officer: Thank you.

Designated Military Officer: (3.a3) The detainee said he was called the Military Commander of al Mujahedin de Maroc, only due to him being bestowed the title by default by virtue of being one of the oldest of the group.

Detainee (through translator): There were many Moroccans in Afghanistan. I did not know all of them. Many of them were there for a long time before I was there. I went to Afghanistan for the first time in June or July 2001. I would like you to understand the situation. I lived in Pakistan from 1990 until 1996 for educational purposes. I also went to Yemen and stayed there for three months. I could not find anything in Yemen that I really liked, so I went to Syria because it was easier there. I remained in Syria where I found a job, and in 2001 I went to Afghanistan to look for a job with a relief organization. All the relief work organizations used to be found in Pakistan. However, in 1999 the Pakistani government sent the relief organizations to Afghanistan. While I was in Syria I decided to go back to Afghanistan hoping for an opportunity to work with a relief work organization. The second allegation stated that I was a military official. I have never heard that the oldest of the group automatically becomes a commander. As I said before, I have never had any type of military training in my life. I know nothing about combat training. My health does not permit such training either. I thank you for providing these medical shoes so that I am able to walk. Before I had these shoes, I would suffer every time I walked. I cannot even run or train. My weak health does not permit me to undergo military training. I have troubles in my knees, thighs, chest, hands, and throat. I do not understand how someone with such poor health can be subjected to military training. The bottom line is that I never received any military training and I was never responsible for any military official.

Presiding Officer: Thank you.

Board Member: What were some of your responsibilities in the relief organization that you were working for in Afghanistan?

Detainee (through detainee): Unfortunately, when I went to Afghanistan to work for the organization and help the orphans because my specialty is to work with orphans, I did not get that type of job. There were two relief organizations, but I did not get a job with either one.

Board Member: What were the names of these relief organizations?

Detainee (through translator: Wafa organization and Sanabil organization. There were two organizations in Afghanistan. I did not get a job with either one.

Board Member: Thank you.

Board Member: Did you ever tell anyone that you had been called a military commander?

ISN 197
Enclosure (5)
Page 4 of 15

2123

Detainee (through translator): To people, to interrogators, where exactly?

Board Member: Anywhere.

Detainee (through translator): No, I did not say that.

Board Member: Thank you.

Designated Military Officer: (3.b) Training. The detainee said members of his group participated in small arms training with Kalashnikov rifles. The training was conducted at a large complex outside of Kabul, Afghanistan, and included live fire training by shooting targets. The training was for fighting against the Northern Alliance when called upon by the Taliban. In exchange, the group was provided a house in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Detainee (through translator): As I said before I do not find the fighting of the Taliban to be legal. I did not participate in that fight anywhere because fighting between Muslim brothers is prohibited. It is an obligation, per the directives of Islam, for Muslim parties to consent. All of my friends believe the same. They believe that they will not fight with the Taliban or the Northern Alliance. The fact that the Taliban has provided the group a house in Kabul is not true at all. The Moroccan group used to pay a monthly rent for the house they resided in. They had no connection with al Qaida or the Taliban or any terrorist organization. The allegation that certain Moroccans have trained on the Kalashnikov, I did not have any authority over anyone. My authority was on my wife, my house, and myself. I have not received any training on the Kalashnikov or any other weapon. I cannot say the same for the other Moroccans because there were many Moroccans there. I cannot lie about that. I am speaking for myself, not for the other Moroccans.

Presiding Officer: Thank you.

Board Member: You mentioned a Moroccan group in the house, how many were there?

Detainee (through translator): It did not exceed 15. Sometimes 10, sometimes 7, and they were all studying.

Board Member: Did any of the Moroccan group members in that house receive any type of military training?

Detainee (through translator): I do not know. It was not my responsibility to ask other people. Even if a person had left the house for a month or so and came back, this person would probably not tell me the truth even if I asked. Our friendship was the only thing that kept us together because we were from the same country. We did not have any connection with al Qaida, the Taliban, the Libyan Fighting Group, or any other organization.

Board Member: Thank you.

Designated Military Officer: (3.b.2) The detainee said that during the summer of 2001, approximately eight members of his group wanted to train with weapons. In an effort to keep these members from going to one of the area training camps, the detainee obtained nine Kalashnikov rifles from the Taliban in Kabul, Afghanistan. The detainee had a local official write a letter of reference and then gave a bribe to a Taliban guard at a weapons warehouse.

Detainee (through translator): This statement is irrational for many reasons. First of all, bribery in Islam is prohibited because the Prophet has stated that God will banish the person who gives or receives bribes. Personally, I would never do such a thing. It is impossible. As far as the weapons go, they were available everywhere in Afghanistan. Anyone who had 100 dollars could afford to buy a weapon. This did not happen.

Designated Military Officer: (3.b.3) A source stated said that he attended training with the detainee at the Tarik Camp located near Bagram, Afghanistan. The source stated the detainee also fought along side the source's group near the front combat lines in the vicinity of Bagram, Afghanistan.

Detainee (through translator): I do not know where this source came from. I do not know him. I was asked the same question in the interrogations. I do not know where Bagram is located. I do not know the Tarik Training Camp either. I have not done any combat fighting in my life. When I went to Kabul for three months, there was no combat going on there, so where did this source fight? I did not have any group either.

Designated Military Officer: (3.c) Connections/Associations. (3.c.1) According to a source, the detainee was part of a small group of Moroccan Islamic leaders who formed the Group Islamique Combatant du Maroc, GICM, during 1995 in Sudan. The purpose of this organization is the overthrow of the Moroccan monarchy and to establish a religious state. The GICM was active inside Morocco, the United Kingdom, Italy, Syria, Turkey and France.

Detainee (through translator): This is the first time that I am hearing of GICM. All the terrorist organizations are known worldwide. You can read them on the newspaper or find them on the Internet, but I had never heard of this particular name before. Also I do not understand what the Moroccan Islamic leaders mean. Who are these Moroccan leaders are we talking about? What is my connection to Sudan in 1995? I was in Pakistan at the university. The most important part of this allegation is the fact that this organization was created to overthrow the Moroccan monarchy. Morocco has been an Islamic country since 13th century until today. I do not see why a person would say that Morocco is not a religious state if the king himself is named the prince of the believers.

Presiding Officer: Thank you.

Designated Military Officer: (3.c.2) According to a source, during the bombings in Afghanistan, the detainee met with Usama bin Laden who supposedly gave Group Islamique Combatant du Maroc financial aid to undertake actions in Morocco.

Detainee (through translator): This statement is not true. I do not know this strange source. I do not know this organization called GICM and I do not know when, where, or how I met with Usama bin Laden. I know that this project happened between people from al Qaida and people from this particular group. If I do not agree with al Qaida and terrorists activities how can I accept these types of activities in Morocco especially if these types of activities will lead to the killing of perhaps any member of my family or any other innocent people? The Koran prohibits the killing of innocents. Whoever hopes for paradise and God's blessing and fear the judgment and punishment of God will not agree with these types of activities. It is impossible to agree with or be involved in these types of activities.

Presiding Officer: Thank you.

Board Member: Have you ever met Usama bin Laden?

Detainee (through translator): Never.

Board Member: Thank you.

Designated Military Officer: (3.c.3) The detainee and another person went to Jalalabad, Afghanistan early 1999 and convinced the leaders of Hizb I Islami Gulbuddin to give them a two-bedroom apartment for a Moroccan guest house.

Detainee (through translator): I would like to indicate that the third, fourth, and fifth point address the same thing, the Hizb I Islami. The third point is about the guest house, the fourth paragraph is a basic definition of Hizb I Islami and it is not an allegation against me, and the fifth one states that Hizb I Islami has trained the Moroccan combatants.

Presiding Officer: Do you have anything to comment on this particular point?

Detainee (through translator): In 1999 I was in Syria studying and working. The paradox in this allegation is that the city of Jalalabad was ruled by the Taliban, but there has been no existence of Hizb I Islami in Jalalabad since 1996. The group was eradicated and Hikmatyar was exiled from Afghanistan to Iraq. I do not know about the meeting between Hikmatyar and the leaders of the Hizb. They did not exist in that city.

Presiding Officer: Thank you.

Designated Military Officer: (3.c.4) Gulbuddin Hikmatyar founded Hizb I Islami Gulbuddin, HIG, as a faction of the Hizb I Islami party in 1977, and it was one of the major Mujahedin groups in the war against the Soviets. HIG has long-established ties

ISN 197
Enclosure (5)
Page 7 of 15
2126

UNCLASSIFIED // ~~FOUO~~

with Usama bin Laden. In the early 1990s, Hikmatyar ran several terrorist training camps in Afghanistan and was a pioneer in sending mercenary fighters to other Islamic conflicts. Hikmatyar offered to shelter Usama bin Laden after the latter fled Sudan in 1996.

Detainee (through translator): This is a general statement. This is not an allegation against me.

Presiding Officer: That is correct.

Detainee (through translator): I would like to treat it as an allegation. Who is Hikmatyar and what was he doing in Afghanistan, I think America knows all that. It was worldwide known that America was supporting the Islamic Party through monetary support and weapons. This has been known through newspaper because Hikmatyar was fighting against the Soviet Union. The connection between Usama bin Laden and Hikmatyar has nothing to do with me whether it was in 1977 or 1997 or any of the year that you have mentioned here. I have asked a few Afghans next to me from whom I have collected this type of information. When bin Laden was exiled from Sudan, the group had welcomed him was Youness al Khaliss not the Hizb I Islami. This is a wrong statement and I wanted to give you the correct information because the Hizb I Islami did not exist in Afghanistan at that time.

Presiding Officer: Thank you.

Designated Military Officer: (3.c.5) According to a source, Hizb E Islami Gulbuddin provided Group Islamique Combatant du Maroc paramilitary training and infrastructure support.

Detainee (through translator): I have the same answer for this. I do not know the Moroccan training group. How could this even be possible if the Hizb I Islami did not exist then? It was a city ruled by the Taliban who was the enemy of the Hizb I Islami.

Presiding Officer: Thank you.

Designated Military Officer: (3.c.6) According to a source, the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group provided Group Islamique Combatant du Maroc recruiting, indoctrination, logistic support, and paramilitary training.

Detainee (through translator): The sixth and seventh paragraphs are connected. The seventh paragraph is the definition of the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group. As I told you before, Moroccans in Afghanistan were many. I am sure there were Moroccans with the Libyan Group, but I do not know that. However, the opinions of the Moroccans I knew at the guest house differed completely from those of the Taliban, al Qaida, or the Libyan Group. There was hostility between the guest houses where the Moroccans and the Libyans lived because the Libyans were accusing the Moroccans of spying.

ISN 197
Enclosure (5)
Page 8 of 15
2127

UNCLASSIFIED // ~~FOUO~~

00002127

UNCLASSIFIED // ~~FOUO~~

Board Member: Who was in charge of this Moroccan guest house?

Detainee (through translator): The house was open to everyone.

Board Member: Who was the person responsible for paying the rent?

Detainee (through translator): We all contributed. Each one of us would pay a portion of the rent. The rent was cheap.

Board Member: Thank you.

Designated Military Officer: (3.c.7) The Libyan Islamic Fighting Group emerged in 1995 among Libyans who had fought against Soviet forces in Afghanistan. Declared the government of Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi un-Islamic and pledged to overthrow it. Some members maintain a strictly anti-Qadhafi focus and organize against Libyan Government interests, but others are aligned with Usama bin Ladin's al Qaeda organization or are active in the international Mujahidin network. The group was designated for asset freeze in September 2001.

Detainee (through translator): As I said before, this statement is the definition of the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group. Their view on the Qadhafi government as you mentioned here in this statement and their connection to al Qaida have nothing to do with me because I am Moroccan not Libyan. I do not understand the perspective of these people and I do not agree with their ideologies. The Moroccan prince is not Qadhafi who perhaps did wrong things to his people. I have no connection to the Libyan Islamic Group or any terrorist network, local or international. I do not have any asset for you to freeze because I have lived a moderate life.

Presiding Officer: Thank you.

Designated Military Officer: (3.c.8) A source said he saw the detainee at a guest house in Kabul, Afghanistan and heard he was a leader at the al Farouq Training Camp.

Detainee (through translator): I think I know this source. When they brought us here from Kandahar to Cuba, next to me was a person named Abdul Raheem al Suri. He was a mentally ill person and was detained because he was a spy in Afghanistan. I was astonished because this man spoke about me during his interrogations. The female interrogator that conducted his interrogation showed him a photo album and was somewhat torturing him by revealing her chest. When he saw my picture, he stated that he knew me and that I was a Tunisian named Abu Mohammed and that he saw me at al Farouq Training Camp. Of course, I do not know the location of that camp. I am sure that if you showed my picture to the many people here who have been at the al Farouq training camp, they will not recognize me as being at that camp. This man was detained in 1997. He does not know the area that well and I was not there either. That same man

ISN 197
Enclosure (5)
Page 9 of 15

2128

UNCLASSIFIED // ~~FOUO~~

00002128

stated that he would go back to the interrogators and tell them that he had not seen me at that camp. There were people next to us and they heard him say that.

Presiding Officer: Thank you.

Designated Military Officer: (3.c.9) Another source said that he was told the detainee was very close to Usama Bin Laden, was in charge of the Kandahar camp and was head of the North African group of al Qaida fighters. The source was also told that the detainee had his own weapon, vehicle and guards.

Detainee (through translator): This source is speaking about a very famous man. America knows Usama bin Laden's friends. Their pictures have been on the newspapers. I have never been to a training camp at Kandahar and I do not even know where it is. It is not true that I was the head of the North African Group of al Qaida. I have never carried any weapon nor did I have any vehicle or guards. You can give me the car and take everything else. This is a false statement. Bin Laden's friends are here and you can ask them.

Presiding Officer: Thank you.

Designated Military Officer: (3.c.10) An additional source said that the detainee was a military leader on the front lines near Bagram, Afghanistan, and also in Tora Bora, Afghanistan.

Detainee (through translator): I do not know where Bagram or the front lines are located because I have never been there. Many people here have admitted that they were on the front lines. You can perhaps ask them that question. I spent about two-and-a-half to three months in Kabul. I spent that time in my house with my family and I went to Jalalabad. I do not know where Tora Bora is located. I asked the people who have been in Tora Bora and they said it is the name of a mountain. Truthfully, I do not know what mountain they were talking about because there are only mountains between Jalalabad and the Pakistani border. I still do not know where Tora Bora is located. I told some of the detainees that I did not know the location of Tora Bora and they offered to tell the interrogators that they did not see me in Tora Bora.

Presiding Officer: Thank you.

Designated Military Officer: (3.c.11) Another source identified the detainee from a photograph and said the detainee was an individual that was experienced with explosives and improvised explosive devices.

Detainee (through translator): I do not know this person who has seen my photograph and stated this. The interrogators have asked me about explosive devices many times. There was another person who carried the same name. In 1990 my name was Mohammed al Rassoul. I gave myself this name because it means lover of the Prophet.

They told me that the name was not acceptable, so I change it to Muhib Allah, which means love of God. I was told that it was not acceptable either, so I went back to my original name. However, during the interrogation when they saw Muhib Allah and since there was an Algerian named Muhib Allah, it seems like they got the two of us mixed up. The interrogators showed my picture to many Algerians who denied that I was Muhib Allah or that I trained on explosives. The person in question is Algerian. The Koran prohibits the training on explosives just like it prohibits the drinking of alcohol among Muslim believers. It is prohibited to even come close to alcohol. I had advised many of my friends against these types of activities, such as weapons and explosives trainings. I told them that it was prohibited and that they should not go down that path. It seems like four or five sources have been cited here. The first time I met with an interrogator, he said that he knew me. He told me that I was Cuba Gooding Jr., the American actor. I told him that I was not that actor. I told them that many people think that I resemble someone else. Of course this situation was fun, but at the same time I was afraid of it since I was mistaken for someone else. The next time I met that interrogator, he brought two pictures of Cuba Gooding Jr. When I looked at the pictures, I smiled because he really looks like me. The similarity was about 70%. If you want to draw a similarity between me and anyone, please draw it between me and the actor, not between me and a terrorist.

Presiding Officer: Thank you.

Board Member: You mentioned that in 1999 you changed your name and they did not like it, who are you referring to as they?

Detainee (through translator): My brother-in-law has a great understanding of the religion. In Morocco, we do not have a name that means father of. The prefix Abu means father of, but in Morocco it does not exist. In other countries, these types of names exist. When I was in Peshawar I wanted to change my name, but my brother-in-law did not accept it because it was a wrong name.

Board Member: So in 1990 you were in Pakistan?

Detainee (through translator): Yes. I was there from 1990 until 1996.

Board Member: Thank you.

Designated Military Officer: (3.d) Other Relevant Data. The detainee said when the bombing started in northern Afghanistan in November 2001 he planned to flee Jalalabad, Afghanistan. The detainee's wife obtained transportation to Peshawar, Pakistan while the detainee and his brother Radwan fled east into the Tora Bora Mountains. After crossing the border the detainee and his brother were turned over to Pakistan authorities.

Detainee (through translator): There is a mistake in this statement that I would like to clarify. When the bombing started in Jalalabad, the Northern Alliance entered the city

and began randomly killing people, especially the Arabs. They would go into houses and steal, so I fled with my brother Radwan. My wife had left the previous day to Peshawar. The next day my brother and I decided to follow her. We did not really take any of our belongings; we just fled the area in a car we found in Jalalabad. There was no direction. We did not know whether we were going east or west. Some people took us with them because they knew that we were Arabs fleeing the city. They took us to a mountainous area outside the city of Jalalabad. These people told us that there were other Arabs in a nearby area that fled from Jalalabad also, but I did not see any of them. My brother and I remained hidden in a man's house and it was during Ramadan. We decided to stay in the house for about 10 days until everything calmed down and then we would leave the area. The situation had gotten worse and it gradually became more dangerous. By the end of the Ramadan month, I told my brother that I was going to leave by myself since he was very sick. So I left. I did not go with my brother. No one captured us together. When I entered Pakistan close to Peshawar City, I was captured by the Pakistani authorities and they knew that I was Arab. They told me not to fear anything because they would take me to the Moroccan Embassy. The strange thing is that they turned me over to civilians and received money. Those civilians took me from there to a prison in Cohat City where there were many other Arabs. Three weeks later, they took us to an airport at night and turned us over to the Americans in Kandahar. They did not capture me carrying a weapon, wearing military uniform, or any of the allegations in the Unclassified. They captured me by myself, not with anyone else.

Board Member: What happened to your brother?

Detainee (through translator): My brother was captured inside Jalalabad and brought here to Cuba. He was released from the first tribunal, CSRT. Now he is in Morocco.

Presiding Officer: Thank you.

Designated Military Officer: (4) The following primary factors favor release or transfer. (4.a) The detainee said he didn't have any knowledge of the attacks in the United States prior to their execution on 11 September 2001. The detainee also didn't have knowledge of any rumors or plans of future attacks on the United States or United States interests.

Detainee (through translator): This is true. This is a very important statement in all the Unclassified because I was not captured until after the attacks of 9-11 and these attacks were a very hurtful event to Americans and to everyone. I already told you that I am not connected to al Qaida and that I have never seen or been near bin Laden. I am among those people who are against bin Laden and his terrorist activities. What happened in 9-11 was a surprise to me. When I heard the news the second day that the twin towers were destroyed, I did not quite understand what happened. I did not know what the World Trade Center meant. I heard that two buildings were destroyed; I did understand it was a terrorist act because in the Arabic world buildings with weak foundation are destroyed all the time. The war started and I went to the city of Jalalabad. I knew that the Americans were coming to Afghanistan and it was normal news for me because I knew that if

ISN 197
Enclosure (5)
Page 12 of 15

2131

UNCLASSIFIED // ~~FOUO~~

Americans came to the city, they would not capture innocent people. I was a normal person living in Afghanistan and this is not a crime. Afghanistan was not among those countries accused of terrorism like Libya or Iraq. There was no restricted travel to and from Afghanistan or to and from America or any other country. However, when the Northern Alliance came to Jalalabad and started killing innocent people, I thought it would be safe to leave the city. In summary, I did not have any knowledge of this before. I do not agree with these types of activities.

Presiding Officer: Thank you.

Designated Military Officer: (4.b) The detainee claims no connection to Moroccan Islamic Combatant Group.

Detainee (through translator): This is the first time I am hearing about this group. I have no connection to it. Again, Moroccans in Afghanistan were many.

Designated Military Officer: (4.c) The detainee said he had no involvement with al Qaida and would never swear bayaat to Usama bin Laden.

Detainee (through translator): This is a true statement. I was against Usama bin Laden and I advised people not to follow him or his organization.

Presiding Officer: Thank you.

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 Assisting Military Officer (read the Detainee Comments from the Enemy Combatant Election Form) OR (stated that he had no additional comments).

The Detainee made the following statement:

Detainee (through translator): The strange thing is that I have attended about 300 interrogation sessions and I have given truthful statements, but I have not seen any of them in this Unclassified. The second thing is the fact that I am called an enemy combatant. You have given me that name. I am not an enemy. I am not an enemy of America or of any other country or individual. I am not a combatant. I have never been a combatant. I am asking where did I ever fight you, when, how, and why would I ever fight you. Usama bin Laden is fighting against America because he is Saudi. Those who have participated in the 9-11 attacks are Saudis also. I am Moroccan and I have no

ISN 197
Enclosure (5)
Page 13 of 15
2132

UNCLASSIFIED // ~~FOUO~~

00002132

hostile feeling or any bad perspective toward Americans before or after the attacks. I always ask myself what type of threats I pose to the Americans. This statement is very surprising to me because America is the most powerful country in the world. How can a person with my health situation ever pose a threat? I asked you whether I pose a threat to America or any part of the world before 9-11. I am telling you these simple things so you can know exactly who I am. I have been detained here for five years and you can also investigate my behavior through my file and see that I have never mistreated the guards by throwing feces or urine at them. For five years I have not committed any bad activities here in this detention facility. This should convince you that I am not a threat to anybody. I would like to read a summary of what I wrote last year: I am the undersigned and my name is Younis Chekkouri. I lived happily in Morocco. I learned from my parents to love people and to do good deed. I traveled to Pakistan and I have participated in charitable work through many organizations. I have felt the need to help poor people and I was very happy to participate in these organizations. I still feel the same. Anyone who is not feeling well needs help and companionship. My purpose in this life is to love and help people and I will do everything possible to accomplish that. That is my true happiness. I thank God that the time I have spent here in detention did not affect me; instead, it has increased my love for charity. It also increased my feelings for the poor and for the people who are mistreated in the entire world, especially the innocents of the terrorists' attacks. The woman who loses her husband; the son who becomes an orphan; the mother who loses her son; they all deserve love and companionship, and this is my purpose in this life.

Presiding Officer: Thank you. Does this conclude your statement?

Detainee (through translator): Yes.

Presiding Officer: Thank you.

The Assisting Military Officer had the following question for the Detainee.

Assisting Military Officer: What do you plan to do if you are released or transferred to your home country?

Detainee (through translator): This question involves very deep feeling to answer it. There are people who have been deprived from me for five years and I have been deprived from them for five years. Treating these types of wounds is not an easy task. My wife and I have been deprived from each other for about five years. I was living a very happy life and all of the sudden I find myself deprived from it. I hope to go back to my family to make them forget about what happened. I wish to return to Morocco. I miss my brothers and my family. I also miss my big family which is all the Moroccans. When I left Morocco, I was very young. Now my opinion has changed about Morocco and I would like to go back. Birds migrate anywhere, but they always go back to their own nest. This is what I would like to do.

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Presiding Officer: Thank you.

The Designated Military Officer had no questions for the Detainee.

The Administrative Review Board Member had no further questions for the Detainee.

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.

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.



ISN 197
Enclosure (5)
Page 15 of 15
2134

UNCLASSIFIED // ~~FOUO~~

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