

(26 May 06)

Summary of Administrative Review Board Proceedings for ISN 659

The Administrative Review Board was called to order.

The Detainee entered the proceedings.

Presiding Officer: Sir, I am going to refer to you as Mr. Sameur.

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.

Detainee: (through translator) It does not make a difference, it is up to you.

Presiding Officer: This is your choice, if you would like to take the oath we can have you sworn in.

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.

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 24 May 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 and wished to respond to each statement of information in the unclassified summary of evidence after it is presented. The detainee was very cooperative, attentive and cordial throughout the interview.

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Copies of both the English and Arabic translated unclassified summary of evidence were provided to the detainee upon his request.

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

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.d.5.) The detainee said it was his right to lie.

Detainee: (through translator) Yes.

Presiding Officer: You are stating that you have a right to lie?

Detainee: (through translator) Yes.

Presiding Officer: Are you stating that you have a right to lie to us/the board?

Detainee: (through translator) Not the board, the interrogators.

Presiding Officer: The interrogators only?

Detainee: (through translator) Yes.

Board Member: Why do you feel you have the right to lie to the interrogators?

Detainee: (through translator) They were lying to us. They were not telling us truthful stories. I was lying so that I can get my medical (treatment). They use interrogations when they are trying to treat somebody. Whenever the interrogator comes to see me he tells me to give him information and he will treat me. I was injured in both of my legs.

Board Member: So you have not been getting treatment?

Detainee: (through translator) I am an enemy, how can you treat me?

Presiding Officer: So the only time you lied was during the time you were injured many years ago?

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Detainee: *(through translator)* Every interrogation that I have gone to I had to lie, because that was the only way I could get medical attention. That's why I kept lying. Every time I spoke with them, I lied. If I told them that I was innocent, they would not hear of it, they would have nothing to do with it. They would torture me. They torture me psychologically.

Presiding Officer: When was the last time you felt you were tortured psychologically?

Detainee: *(through translator)* In the past four years.

Presiding Officer: Sir, I would like you to know that during this proceeding it is important for you to tell the truth.

Detainee: *(through translator)* I will.

Designated Military Officer: (3.a.1.) The detainee met Nourine at the Finsbury Park Mosque in London, England. Nourine showed the detainee videos of the jihad in Bosnia and Chechnya, and convinced the detainee to go to Afghanistan.

Detainee: *(through translator)* That is correct.

Designated Military Officer: (3.a.2.) The detainee paid for his own ticket to Afghanistan with money he received from his brother.

Detainee: *(through translator)* That is correct.

Designated Military Officer: (3.a.3.) The detainee gave Nourine approximately 600 British Pounds, and Nourine made the detainee's travel arrangements and bought his airline ticket. The detainee traveled alone on a direct flight from England to Pakistan.

Detainee: *(through translator)* That is correct.

Designated Military Officer: (3.a.4.) Finsbury Park Mosque's Nourine is a well-known Salafist Group for Combat and Preaching (GSPC) recruiter who handled large numbers of Mujahedin transiting to Afghanistan.

Detainee: *(through translator)* That is not correct.

Presiding Officer: So you are saying that you have never been to the Finsbury Park Mosque?

Detainee: *(through translator)* I was only an individual who was there to pray. You are talking about Nourine, as if he was a big man there. He is nothing more than a common or ordinary man that goes to the Mosque to pray.

Board Member: Did Nourine help you get to Pakistan?

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Detainee: *(through translator)* What do you mean by help me?

Board Member: Did he make the travel arrangements?

Detainee: *(through translator)* Yes, he did.

Board Member: Did he just send you to Pakistan on your own, or did he ask you or tell you someone to contact when you got there?

Detainee: *(through translator)* He did not give me any names of people to contact there, but he told me to go to an ice cream parlor and an Afghani guy was going to come and get me.

Presiding Officer: Do you have the name of the person at the ice cream parlor?

Detainee: *(through translator)* That was the first day that I entered Pakistan. How would I know the name of the ice cream parlor owner?

Board Member: Thank you.

Designated Military Officer: (3.a.5.) The Salafist Group for Call and Combat (GSPC) is currently the most effective armed group inside Algeria. The GSPC continues to conduct operations aimed at government and military targets, primarily in rural areas, although civilians are sometimes killed. According to press reporting, some GSPC members in Europe maintain contacts with other North African extremists sympathetic to al Qaida. In late 2002, Algerian authorities announced they had killed a Yemeni al Qaida operative who had been meeting with the GSPC inside Algeria.

Detainee: *(through translator)* What do you want to hear from me?

Presiding Officer: No response is required.

Designated Military Officer: (3.a.6.) The detainee left London for Afghanistan in the summer of 2001.

Detainee: *(through translator)* This is correct, it was the year 2001. I am not sure whether it was summer, autumn or winter, I am not sure what the season was.

Presiding Officer: But, it was in 2001?

Detainee: *(through translator)* Yes.

Board Member: I want to make sure that I understand correctly. You traveled to Pakistan first and then made your way from Pakistan to Afghanistan?

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Detainee: *(through translator)* There are no planes that go from London to Pakistan directly. You have to go to Pakistan and then from there to Afghanistan.

Presiding Officer: How long were you in London?

Detainee: *(through translator)* A year and a half.

Presiding Officer: During that time how did you survive? Where did you get your money?

Detainee: *(through translator)* I had political asylum and they were giving me money.

Presiding Officer: The government provided you with a monthly check?

Detainee: *(through translator)* Yes.

Designated Military Officer: (3.a.7.) In Pakistan the detainee was asked if he wanted to train in Afghanistan or go directly to Chechnya, and he decided to train in Afghanistan.

Detainee: *(through translator)* This is not true.

Presiding Officer: So no one asked you to train in Afghanistan?

Detainee: *(through translator)* Nobody did.

Designated Military Officer: (3.a.8.) The detainee landed in Islamabad, Pakistan and met a man at an ice cream shop. The man took the detainee to the Algerian House in Jalalabad, Afghanistan.

Detainee: *(through translator)* That is correct.

Presiding Officer: You met this man at the ice cream shop, but you do not know his name? Was he the owner of the shop?

Detainee: *(through translator)* I was at the ice cream shop and the man came afterwards.

Designated Military Officer: (3.a.9.) The detainee stated he spent approximately five months at the Algerian guest house in Jalalabad, Afghanistan and was assigned a Kalashnikov (AK-47) rifle while there.

Detainee: *(through translator)* That is not correct. The longest period I stayed in Afghanistan was three months.

Board Member: Are you only disputing the time that you spent there?

Detainee: *(through translator)* Yes.

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Presiding Officer: Did you ever fire an AK-47?

Detainee: *(through translator)* Where?

Presiding Officer: Anywhere?

Detainee: *(through translator)* I did, when I was in the Algerian Army.

Designated Military Officer: (3.a.10.) The detainee traveled to Kandahar, Afghanistan and stayed at the Arab House.

Detainee: *(through translator)* That is not true. I never went to the Arab house.

Presiding Officer: You never went to the Arab house, but you did go to Kandahar? Is that correct?

Detainee: *(through translator)* I stayed in Jalalabad and Kabul. I never went to Kandahar.

Presiding Officer: Even though you say you have not been to Kandahar, we are going to go ahead and read the next allegation.

Designated Military Officer: (3.a.11.) While at the guesthouse in Kandahar, Afghanistan the detainee volunteered to go see the al Farouq training camp because he was interested. The purpose of the camp was to train Mujahedin for jihad in Algeria and Chechnya.

Detainee: *(through translator)* I already said I have not been to Kandahar.

Presiding Officer: I understand. You have never been to Kandahar and you have never been to al Farouq?

Detainee: *(through translator)* This is a lie that I gave to the people.

Presiding Officer: You say you have never been to Kandahar but have you ever been to al Farouq?

Detainee: *(through translator)* How am I going to go there? I don't even know Afghanistan.

Presiding Officer: So you are saying that you have never been to al Farouq.

Detainee: *(through translator)* No, I never have.

Designated Military Officer: (3.b.1.) The detainee received training on the Kalashnikov and the Makarov handgun in the Algerian military.

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Detainee: (*through translator*) That is true.

Designated Military Officer: (3.b.2.) The detainee attended the al Farouq Camp in the summer of 2001, but could not recall the specific months that he attended training. The detainee was at the al Farouq Camp approximately 14 days, and received limited training on firing the Kalashnikov rifle.

Detainee: (*through translator*) I just told you, I never went to al Farouq.

Presiding Officer: I just want to make sure you understand. We still have to read all the statements. You may say that you have never been to a certain location, but we are still required to read the statements for the record.

Designated Military Officer: (3.c.1.) Another person at the Finsbury Park Mosque also told the detainee that he needed to go to Afghanistan.

Detainee: (*through translator*) That is incorrect.

Board Member: How did you come to the decision to go to Afghanistan from Finsbury Park Mosque?

Detainee: (*through translator*) I thought about it and just decided to go over there to see it. If I liked it I would stay, if not, I would just go back.

Presiding Officer: What were you planning to do in Afghanistan? How were you planning to support yourself?

Detainee: (*through translator*) Food and sleeping arrangements were provided by the guesthouse over there.

Board Member: Was there anyone else that you met or were associated with at the Mosque besides Nourdine who tried to get you to go to Afghanistan?

Detainee: (*through translator*) No. There was nobody.

Designated Military Officer: (3.c.2.) This other person is a well-known Finsbury Park facilitator reported to be in custody in the United Kingdom.

Detainee: (*through translator*) I do not know that person.

Designated Military Officer: (3.c.3.) The detainee's Finsbury Park recruiter, Nourdine, arrived at the guesthouse during the detainee's al Farouq training. Nourdine died in the group's retreat to Tora Bora.

Detainee: (*through translator*) Nourdine came while I was in al Farouq. Is that one of the questions?

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Presiding Officer: Yes, that was one question.

Detainee: *(through translator)* I told you earlier that I never went to al Farouq or trained there.

Board Member: Did Nourdine come visit you while you were in Afghanistan?

Detainee: *(through translator)* He did not come to me, but he did come to the guesthouse. He just came to visit the guesthouse.

Detainee: *(through translator)* That is correct.

Presiding Officer: You were in Tora Bora?

Detainee: *(through translator)* I was not in Tora Bora, the following day I went to Tora Bora. We went to Tora Bora on our way to Pakistan.

Presiding Officer: Did anyone else die in your group?

Detainee: *(through translator)* There were other people that got killed there, but there were only two people with me.

Presiding Officer: There were only three people in your group?

Detainee: *(through translator)* There were a lot of people that got killed but there were only three people leaving with me, we were the only three that were leaving. It was not the whole Salafist group it was only three of us.

Presiding Officer asked the DMO to skip ahead and read paragraphs 3.d.1. and 3.d.2. Other relevant data.

Designated Military Officer: (3.d.1.) The detainee returned to the Algerian House in Jalalabad, Afghanistan. Upon hearing that the Taliban was fleeing, the detainee fled with about 150 others towards the mountains of the Afghanistan and Pakistan border.

Detainee: *(through translator)* There were only three of us when we left. As we were going away there were other people leaving as well and it looked like they were also with us. There were not any big houses that could accommodate 150 people.

Presiding Officer: You saw all these other people leaving and just joined in with them?

Detainee: *(through translator)* They were just walking and we joined in with them.

Presiding Officer: At the time you were walking did you have any type of weapon?

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Detainee: *(through translator)* I did not have anything then, but they gave us some weapons afterwards.

Presiding Officer: When you say afterwards, what time frame are you talking about?

Detainee: *(through translator)* Before we walked to the mountain they gave us some weapons to take care of the ladies.

Designated Military Officer: (3.d.2.) The detainee said opposition forces blocked them on the road. The detainee was ordered to put down his weapon, but he refused.

Detainee: *(through translator)* That is incorrect.

Presiding Officer: Which portion of this statement is incorrect?

Detainee: *(through translator)* I did not meet any opposition forces and nobody told me to put down my weapons.

Presiding Officer: So you were allowed to continue to carry your rifle?

Detainee: *(through translator)* There were some ladies that came with their kids, they said their husbands were killed in the war. We were there to help them out and take them to the mountains; to help them escape to Pakistan.

Presiding Officer: You were escorting these ladies and their children to go to Pakistan?

Detainee: *(through translator)* We took them to the border, which is close to Tora Bora. From there we went on to Tora Bora. There were some men that came over and took the women and children to Pakistan and then they went to Tora Bora.

Presiding Officer: When you say they, are you referring to your group?

Detainee: *(through translator)* There were no groups, all the Muslims escaped together. I don't know anyone in that group. I only knew three people; we helped each other and that was it.

Board Member: The reason that you decided to flee Afghanistan, was because you believed that foreigners were in danger?

Detainee: *(through translator)* I don't know. I saw everyone escaping, so I figured I should escape with them.

Board Member: Were there fighters in your group or amongst you? Were there men that you met while you were escaping that were in the Taliban or al Qaida?

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Detainee: (*through translator*) What does the Taliban have to do with it? They are a different group altogether.

Board Member: There were many fighters from outside Afghanistan.

Detainee (*through translator*) Who was fighting them?

Board Member: What I am saying is that the Taliban was made up of more than just Afghans.

Detainee: (*through translator*) I do not know anything. I do not know how was the Taliban or who was in the Taliban. All I know, was as I came from London to the guesthouse, they provided us with food, shelter, money and reading the Koran, that's it.

Board Member: You left London to go to Pakistan and Afghanistan with the thought that you would be studying the Koran?

Detainee: (*through translator*) No, I did not go for the Koran, to learn or read it. I went there to see if I liked the country then I would stay there and if not I would just go back.

Board Member: Do you understand that we believe people that go to these guesthouses are going for terrorism and jihad purposes?

Detainee: (*through translator*) If I wanted to go over there and become a terrorist so that I could fight or for the jihad or things like that. I did not need to travel that far; I could have fought in my own country, Algeria.

Board Member: We are aware of the problems with the Algerian government.

Designated Military Officer: (3.c.4.) The detainee admitted that he was a member of the Algerian resistance group al-Jibhat al-Islamiat lil-Inqath, meaning the Islamic Liberation Front (ILF).

Detainee: (*through translator*) Where did you get ILF from?

Presiding Officer: This is an abbreviation for the Islamic Liberation Front.

Detainee: (*through translator*) In my country they call it FIS.

Presiding Officer: What does that stand for?

Detainee: (*through translator*) It is the same organization you are talking about, but in my country they use this abbreviation (FIS).

Presiding Officer: You say FIS and it stands for the Islamic Liberation Front?

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Detainee: *(through translator)* Correct.

Presiding Officer: So you are a member?

Detainee: *(through translator)* I was not even praying yet, how could I be a member of this organization? I was still young at that point in time I was doing my own thing.

Presiding Officer: So you are saying that you were never a member of that group?

Detainee: *(through translator)* No.

Designated Military Officer: (3.c.5.) The detainee claims the Islamic Liberation Front only fights within Algeria, not against the United States.

Detainee: *(through translator)* That's what I know.

Designated Military Officer: (3.c.6.) The detainee gave money to the Finsbury Park Mosque that helped fund individuals going to Afghanistan and other areas of the world where jihad was being fought.

Detainee: *(through translator)* How can I give money to the Finsbury Park and the government was paying me money?

Presiding Officer: You could have used a portion of that money.

Detainee: *(through translator)* That's correct if they were giving me a large sum, but they were only giving me a small amount.

Presiding Officer: How much money was the government providing you with for this asylum?

Detainee: *(through translator)* Approximately \$600 dollars a month. It is less when you do the conversion (i.e. converting from U.S. dollars to British pounds).

Designated Military Officer: (3.d.3.) While crossing the border the detainee engaged in a battle with Pakistan forces. He was shot in the legs, captured and spent about four months in several hospitals, before being sent to Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Detainee: *(through translator)* How did I get involved in a battle or combat with somebody?

Board Member: That is what we are asking?

Detainee: *(through translator)* I came to Pakistan but I did not have any weapons to fight with.

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Board Member: How did you get shot?

Detainee: *(through translator)* They captured us and said they were going to take us to the embassy, give everyone there paperwork so they could go back to their country. They deceived us and put us in prison and told us the following day they would take us to our embassy. There were about 140-150 people, they put us on buses and told us they were taking us to go back to our home country. The Pakistani Army was there with weapons and stuff.

Presiding Officer: During the time you were on the buses?

Detainee: *(through translator)* Yes. There were eight people inside of the bus and three people on top of the bus. They told us they were taking us to the consulate and then after that everyone was going to go back. They spoke the Urdu language and among us there were some people who understood the language they heard the soldiers saying that these people (us) are nothing more than animals, dogs and they wanted to sell these dogs to the Americans.

Presiding Officer: Were there any women and children on the bus at that time? Was it all men?

Detainee: *(through translator)* There were no women and children on the bus.

Presiding Officer: How long were you on the bus?

(Detainee did not answer Presiding Officer's question on how long he was on bus)

Detainee: *(through translator)* The people on the bus started fighting with the soldiers, they overturned the bus and we escaped. At that point in time they began shooting and that is how I got injured.

Board Member: How are your injuries today?

Detainee: *(through translator)* They are a lot better than before.

Designated Military Officer: (3.d.4.) The detainee acknowledged having been told that something would happen to the United States within one week of the 11 September 2001 attacks.

Detainee: *(through translator)* When you ask this question you make me laugh. Who made this remark? Do you think that Usama bin Laden would come to me and inform me of what's going on?

Presiding Officer: This remark came from a previous interview that you had.

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Board Member: In a general sense were you told that something would happen in the United States?

Detainee: *(through translator)* I am nothing when it comes to al Qaida. Why would they let me know? If I were very important then that would be different.

Designated Military Officer: (3.d.6.) The detainee denied ever firing his weapon at a person while he was in Afghanistan. He stated he would carry his weapon when he left the guesthouse for protection.

Detainee: *(through translator)* That is true.

Designated Military Officer: (4.a.) The detainee stated that he never went to al Farouq Camp, and that this information was provided to interrogators so that he could obtain medical attention for his legs.

Detainee: *(through translator)* That's correct and this way I would escape the torture. When you tell the interrogators that I went there did this and that, they are so happy they can now fill up their files. So I gave them false information.

Designated Military Officer: (4.b.) The detainee claims that he never attended any training camps, never fought against the Northern Alliance or the United States and never carried a weapon.

Detainee: *(through translator)* That is correct.

Designated Military Officer: (4.c.) The detainee stated that he went to Afghanistan with pure intentions to study the Koran and help the Afghan people.

Detainee: *(through translator)* How was I going to help the Afghani people?

Presiding Officer: What you are telling us is that you went to Afghanistan strictly to read/study the Koran?

Detainee: *(through translator)* I did not go there to study, teach or anything to do with the Koran. I went there to see if I liked it there to stay. If I did not like there then I would go back to my country.

Board Member: When you say go back to your country are you talking about going back to England or Algeria?

Detainee: *(through translator)* If I did not like it in Pakistan or Afghanistan, I would have gone back to Britain. I had a ticket that would not expire for a year.

Presiding Officer: If you were to go back to Britain, would you still get your 600 dollars a month?

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Detainee: *(through translator)* I would not know that.

Designated Military Officer: (4.d.) The detainee does not know where he wants to live when he leaves prison. He does not want to fight jihad. The detainee wants to get married and have a family and a job.

Detainee: *(through translator)* That is true.

Presiding Officer: What kind of work have you done in the past?

Detainee: *(through translator)* I did a lot of different jobs. I worked as a tailor, a cook and I did trading.

Presiding Officer: So you were a cook and tailor. Anything else?

Detainee: *(through translator)* I also bought and sold paint. I traded clothes in the garment industry and also did interior decorating.

Board Member: New clothes or used clothes?

Detainee: *(through translator)* New clothes.

Presiding Officer: Were you ever a painter?

Detainee: *(through translator)* That was my main job, décor and painting.

Board Member: These jobs that you did, were some in Algeria and some in England?

Detainee: *(through translator)* They were all in Algeria.

Presiding Officer: During the time you were in Great Britain, you just collected monthly checks and did no work?

Detainee: *(through translator)* I only worked one time. When my brother built his house I helped him out with the garden and decorating like painting the inside.

Presiding Officer: In Great Britain?

Detainee: *(through translator)* Yes.

Board Member: Is your older and younger brother still in Great Britain?

Detainee: *(through translator)* My older brother is still in Britain.

Presiding Officer: Can you give us the name of your older brother?

Detainee: *(through translator)* Hassaen Sameur.

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Designated Military Officer: (4.e.) The detainee denies knowledge of any rumors or plans of future attacks on the United States or United States interests.

Detainee: *(through translator)* That is true. I do not know any information about that.

Designated Military Officer: (4.f.) The detainee says he is not a terrorist and has never done anything wrong.

Detainee: *(through translator)* That is true. I have never done anything bad. When I went to Afghanistan you did not consider me a terrorist, ever since they have captured me I have been considered a terrorist just because I was in Afghanistan. Afghanistan is considered to be a terrorist country, whether it is a terrorist country or not I have no knowledge of that. I do know there are no terrorists there; I know there are Mujahadin. I do not know anything about terrorism there, all I know is that the people over there were fighting to defend the Muslims. That is the only idea I have about that.

Designated Military Officer: (4.g.) The detainee swears that he did not come to Afghanistan to train. He just wants to return to England, work and save money, and then return to Algeria. The detainee says he did not talk to anyone about the Islamic Liberation Front while in Afghanistan.

Detainee: *(through translator)* That is true.

Designated Military Officer: (4.h.) The detainee knows nothing of Usama bin Laden or any ties between the Islamic Liberation Front and al Qaida or the Taliban.

Detainee: *(through translator)* That is true.

Designated Military Officer: (4.i.) The detainee emphatically denied ever having been to Bosnia.

Detainee: *(through translator)* That is true. I have never been there and I don't know Bosnia.

Presiding Officer: You are telling us that you have never been to Bosnia?

Detainee: *(through translator)* I do not know anything about it.

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.

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Detainee: *(through translator)* What information are you looking for so that I can present it to you?

Assisting Military Officer: Do you wish to make a statement to the board?

Detainee: *(through translator)* I do not have a statement, but I do have a question. Is this going to be the last ARB?

Presiding Officer: The ARB process will continue. Right now, we are here to make a recommendation to the officials in Washington DC on your continued detention, transfer or release. This may be your last ARB, but if we make a recommendation for a continued detention *(and the officials in Washington DC concur)* you may face another ARB in the future.

Detainee made an Oral Statement

The Detainee made the following statement:

Detainee: *(through translator)* There is nothing against myself or against the United States, unless you people want to accuse me of being guilty, you have these allegations or information that I am guilty. If that is the case then I do not have the time for you, four years of my lifetime is enough for you guys. I am innocent, if I was a terrorist, I am not scared of you, I will tell you that. If I was a Mujahedin (Muslims) that's my religion and I am very proud of it. I am not scared; the worst that you can do is keep me here or kill me. I did not do anything bad, the majority of the people/the detainees that you have in the camp here are innocent and they are treated like dogs. You did not catch us in Pakistan, we were sold in Pakistan. The Pakistani Army was very poor, that's why they were selling us to you. They even took some people from their wives and their families to sell to the Americans they took them from the hotels, the streets and the houses and said they were terrorists because they wanted to get the money. America was giving them money, each time they said this guy is a terrorist, they would just give them money.

The majority of the people here have nothing against the Americans. People that I have spoken to all say they were only there (Afghanistan) for three to six months. If you have any evidence to prove that I have killed somebody, then present this evidence. Don't bring lies and tell me these allegations. Bring me this evidence, take me to court and see if you can prove that I am guilty. All the years that I have spent here and you cannot figure out whether I am a terrorist, a fighter, Mujahedin or whatever. I gave you my entire life history in Britain and in Algeria and you have never come up with one solid piece of evidence against me. You keep me here and treat me like a dog, that's the way you treat everybody else. I have never seen an American next to me except when I was in Pakistan and they were soldiers. How can I fight Americans and I have never seen anybody, any American? Even in Algeria, I did not have any American enemies. We have Americans in Algeria but they are all in the dessert, they were with the government.

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You (*Americans*) are my enemy; I am not your enemy because I have done nothing to you. You are the one who imprisoned me and I have done nothing, you are just trying to gather information anyway that you can and any country can do that, but not for four years with the same thing back and forth and under these living conditions. Four years I have been in this prison here why haven't you arrived at a decision? You keep saying that you are going to make a decision or make a recommendation but what you are doing here is wasting our time, we have spent four years here and nothing has happened. You cannot even bring out any truthful information because you do not have any, everybody makes up these statements and you ask us about it. If I was living in the guest house it was because I did not have any money and things like that, but you say I was trained there.

Anything I tell you, you will find some type of excuse to justify that I am a terrorist. Anything I tell you, you will come up with something like I am doing this or doing that. I am not the only one lying; the other detainee's are lying to the interrogators as well. Since they deceive us we try to deceive them as well. They also lie and torture us. They were giving me some kind of medical pills, but the interrogators stopped it. Every time they get a new interrogator the interrogator stops it, if we are on any medication he will tell whoever is in charge not to give us the medication. In the past, if we were sick the doctors will call the interrogator and ask him if they should give us any medication. About two days after the doctors talk to the interrogators about giving us medication the interrogator will visit the detainee and ask him how he feels and if everything is alright. He will then ask if we need medication and if the detainee says yes he needs the medication the interrogator will tell the detainee why don't you answer some of these questions for me. Since they caught us, we have been in the same scenario, they have lied to us and we have lied to them.

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

The Assisting Military Officer read the Detainee Comments from the Enemy Combatant Election Form.

Assisting Military Officer: After listening to the Unclassified Summary of Evidence the detainee questioned why the summary did not mention his political asylum in Great Britain. The detainee stated he has a residency in Great Britain along with travel documents. The detainee stated he does not understand why this information was not listed within the summary.

Detainee: (*through translator*) That is true.

The Assisting Military Officer had no further questions for the Detainee.

The Designated Military Officer had no further questions for the Detainee.

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Administrative Review Board Member's questions:

Board Member: Mr. Sameur, tell me about your time in the Algerian Military.

Detainee: *(through translator)* They train you how to use the handgun and the Kalashnikov. They do not train you very well because they are afraid that you may run away; join other organizations like the Mujahedin or something else. Just like any Army, the American Army and things like that, they send you to guard something, that's what they gave us to do. Six months later, I just escaped from the Army.

Board Member: Earlier the Presiding Officer, when talking to you about the process of the ARB, gave you three options. We can release, transfer or detain you. If our recommendation is to transfer you, what country would you like to be transferred to? You do have several countries?

Detainee: *(through translator)* I will go to any country as long as I leave Guantanamo.

Board Member: Algeria or Britain?

Detainee: *(through translator)* Either one.

Board Member: It is very difficult to communicate and to understand two different languages and two different cultures, so I would like to thank you for trying. I do have some questions that I would like to ask. Did you know before you chose to go to Pakistan or Afghanistan there was a lot of fighting going on?

Detainee: *(through translator)* When I went there, there was no fighting going on. Once in awhile they fired a few shots in the air and that was it.

Board Member: That was all you thought was going on?

Detainee: *(through translator)* Yes.

Board Member: I ask that question because you were giving political asylum in England and they were paying you money. I was just wondering why you would leave that?

Detainee: *(through translator)* I was in Britain and in Britain they have a lot of bars and activities. I wanted to go to Afghanistan or Pakistan to see if I liked it there so that I could become very religious and exercise my religion without any distractions. I was very young and I could not control myself in Britain. In Afghanistan and Pakistan there were none of these things, not only that but they would hit you or imprison you if you tried to go after or talk to a woman, or go to the bar or anything like that.

Board Member: So the culture in England was much different?

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Detainee: *(through translator)* Much more open, yes. Life in Algeria was the same as life in Britain; you had all these activities going on, if someone wanted to follow their religion they would get distracted with drinks and so forth.

Presiding Officer: How many passports have you had at any one time?

Detainee: *(through translator)* I only have one passport.

Presiding Officer: You've only had one passport?

Detainee: *(through translator)* The passport that England gave me for the political asylum and the passport that I exited Algeria with.

Presiding Officer: So you had two passports?

Detainee: *(through translator)* Two.

Presiding Officer: You wanted to go to Afghanistan; do you speak any Afghan languages?

Detainee: *(through translator)* That is not a requirement, to speak it. You use money for everything there. You don't need to talk over there, if you have your money and you wanted to buy something you just buy it or you go to the guesthouse and they would provide it. After you stay there for two or three years you will probably be able to speak the language.

Presiding Officer: How would you describe your behavior since you have been here over the past four years?

Detainee: *(through translator)* How do you mean?

Presiding Officer: Do you feel that you have been compliant?

Detainee: *(through translator)* Who treats me good, I treat them good. Who treats me like a dog I give them the same treatment.

Presiding Officer: Have you ever thrown anything at a guard?

Detainee: *(through translator)* Yes, I threw feces and I have spit on them.

Presiding Officer: Why did you do that?

Detainee: *(through translator)* They were trying to psychologically work me up. You already know this information because it is already in my file.

Presiding Officer: I wanted to hear it from you.

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Detainee: *(through translator)* If you treat me like a dog then I will treat you like a dog. There are some soldiers that I joke around with and things like that and there are some people that treat me like dirt. This is true in every society and country you will find the good and the bad.

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.



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