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Summarized Detainee Statement

Tribunal President: Okay. Kari, you may now present any evidence you have to the Tribunal and you have the assistance of your Personal Representative in doing so. Do you want to present information to this Tribunal and do want to do it under a Muslim oath?

Detainee: Yes.

Tribunal President: Recorder, please administer the Muslim oath.

The Detainee was sworn using the Muslim oath.

Tribunal President: Let me verify the correct name.

Detainee: Maasoum.

Tribunal President: Is that the first name or the last name?

Detainee: My name is Maasoum. My father's name is Abdah.

Tribunal President: So we will use Maasoum Abdah?

Detainee: Yes.

Detainee: I don't I have a problem being called Bilal.

Tribunal President: Okay. Thank you. Maasoum, you may begin your statement or you can answer or respond to any of the allegations on the Unclassified Summary.

Personal Representative: Madam President, the detainee asked me to read his response to the allegations.

Tribunal President: Okay.

Personal Representative: And I have for the Tribunal a copy of what I will be reading for the record. It's marked Exhibit D-b.

Tribunal President: Fine.

In the following section of the summarized transcript, the Personal Representative reads to the Tribunal the detainee's responses to the allegations found on the Unclassified Summary of Evidence. Any comments made by the detainee or others are summarized, as well. To put the responses and comments into context, the allegations are set forth in italics before the associated response.

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3.a. The detainee was a member of the Taliban.

Personal Representative: The statement is untrue. My being involved with the Taliban is impossible. I don't even speak a word of Pashtu, and I don't know anyone from the Taliban, and I was never associated with anyone from the Taliban.

3.a.1. The detainee is a Syrian who traveled to Afghanistan in 2000.

Personal Representative: I wanted to go to Afghanistan to find a wife and get married and stay there. I wanted to live there because it is cheaper to get married and to live there. I intended to stay for a while, but not a long time.

3.a.2. The detainee stayed for more than 12 months at the Wazir Akbar Khan Street safe house, located in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Personal Representative: I stayed for nine to ten months. Abu Mouad rented a house and a few of us stayed with him. It was a normal home, a place to eat, drink and sleep.

3.a.3. The detainee operated a safe house where 5-20 personnel armed with AK-47 rifles could be found at any given time.

Personal Representative: It is not true that I operated this house. There were no AK-47s at this house.

Detainee: I don't understand.

Personal Representative: It is not true that I operated this house.

Detainee: Do you mean operated like "military" operated?

Personal Representative: Like ran. The allegation is that he operated the safe house.

Detainee: I did not understand the 3rd one. How did I operate this house?

Tribunal President: Use the word "manage."

Detainee: It was a regular house. Just like any other person's house.

Tribunal President: Were you in charge of running the house? Making sure the costumers were comfortable. Did you receive the money for the house?

Detainee: I didn't.

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The Personal Representative continued to read the detainee's response to the allegations.

Personal Representative: There were no AK-47s at this house. Normally, there were only seven of us staying in the house. Not five to twenty.

3.a.4. The detainee's name was found on a list of Mujahideen trainees for a sniper course.

Personal Representative: This statement is not true at all.

3.a.5. The detainee confirmed that one of his aliases was on the list for the sniper course.

Personal Representative: This is likely a mix up in names. If you find a Bilal on this list, I ask, am I the only Bilal in the world? I told the interrogators that I am a Kurdish Bilal, and that there are a lot of Syrian Bilals.

Personal Representative: That is the end of the statement.

Tribunal President: Maasoum, would like to add anything else to your statement, or does that end your statement?

Detainee: Maasoum.

Tribunal President: Maasoum?

Detainee: Bilal is easier, if you would like.

Tribunal President: Fine. Bilal, would you like to add anything else to your statement, or does that end your statement?

Detainee: I don't have anything else.

Tribunal President: Personal Representative, do you have any questions for the detainee?

Personal Representative: Just one. Since Abu Mouad rented the house, would he be the person who managed the house?

Detainee: It is true that he rented that house, but we all worked together. We all bought food and we all ate there. So we were all in that house. He was not managing us. Basically, everyone was working. Getting our own food, we ate together, but he was not supervising us, or anything like that.

Personal Representative: That's all I have.

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Tribunal President: Recorder, do you have any questions for the detainee?

Recorder: No, ma'am.

Tribunal President: Do any Tribunal members have any questions for the detainee?

Member: About when did you go to Afghanistan?

Detainee: The year 2000, the sixth month.

Member: Okay. How did you get there?

Detainee: From Syria to Turkey to Iran to Afghanistan. On land.

Member: On land. Okay.

Member: Before you left Syria, did you have to get an Afghanistan visa?

Detainee: No.

Member: You said in your statement before that your Personal Representative read, that you were not part of the Taliban because you don't speak Pashtu?

Detainee: Yes.

Member: But you did go to Afghanistan to find a wife?

Detainee: Yes.

Member: Wasn't there still going to be a language problem?

Detainee: I'm sorry?

Member: Your wife would speak Pashtu also.

Detainee: I asked some Persian women who spoke Farsi. Because I am Kurdish, the Kurdish language is very close to Farsi. I can understand Farsi. Even if I got married to a Pashtu woman, over time I would learn how to speak Pashtu.

Member: Okay. And she would learn your language?

Detainee: Possibly.

Member: Okay. When you stayed at the house, what did you do for money? Did you work?

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Detainee: I did not work in Afghanistan, but when I was in Iran, I worked and I had money.

Member: Okay. Have you had any military training in Syria or Afghanistan or anywhere else?

Detainee: No. Never. Only when I was in the Syrian police, they trained us. But in two years, I only shot – in a year in a half, I only shot seven bullets.

Member: That's all I have.

Member: Maasoum, how were you arrested?

Detainee: When we were leaving Afghanistan to Pakistan on the border line, we were arrested at the border line.

Member: How did you leave Afghanistan?

Detainee: I went to Jalalabad. I stayed there for a day or two days. After a day and a half, we went somewhere where it was safe and no one would bother us. About a month a half. After that we left for Pakistan.

Member: Was this route through the mountains to Pakistan?

Detainee: It was a regular road. There were some mountains and some other things.

Member: When you were arrested by the Pakistanis, did you have a passport with you?

Detainee: No.

Member: Where was your passport?

Detainee: In the house that I stayed in Kabul.

Member: Why was it still in the house? Why wouldn't you take it with you if you knew you were leaving the country?

Detainee: I did not know I was leaving the country. If I had known I was leaving the country, I would have taken it. In the beginning, I didn't know.

Member: Can you tell me when you were arrested by the Pakistanis?

Detainee: In the beginning of the year. I am not sure exactly if it was 2000 or 2003. I have forgotten. Possibly 2002.

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Member: Was it the year after the--

Detainee: I do not know.

Member: Do you recall when the planes flew in the World Trade Center in New York?

Detainee: I saw a movie here.

Member: Was it the first of the year, right after that event took place?

Detainee: When I left?

Member: When you were arrested by the Pakistanis.

Detainee: It was after.

Member: After. When you left Kabul, was that after the bombing started?

Detainee: Honestly, I don't remember.

Member: So did you see any bombing or fighting at all in Kabul or on your way out of the country?

Detainee: I don't remember, but I heard that there would be attacks.

Member: Was the route that you took out into Pakistan from Jalalabad, was it through the Tora Bora mountains?

Detainee: I do not know what the mountain was. That was my first time going through that route.

Member: You said that there were about seven people in your house. Were any of those people associated with the Taliban?

Detainee: No, never.

Member: Were any of them fighters or associated with Al Qaida?

Detainee: Never.

Member: Just want to make sure I understand the timing. So you where in Kabul and then you heard that you might be attacked, so that's when you started to leave to go to Pakistan?

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Detainee: Could you repeat please?

Member: Yes. You were living in Kabul and you heard that Kabul could be attacked. So is that when you left and started to go to Pakistan?

Detainee: When the people took me, I did not even know where I was going. They just took me and they took me out of Jalalabad.

Member: Who were the people who took you?

Detainee: Amed Sala and Amed Shariff are the ones who took me.

Member: They just came and took you and said "we're leaving"?

Detainee: Yes.

Member: And you did not ask why and where we're going?

Detainee: Abu Mouad was with them. But the people that took me from Jalalabad were Amed Sala and Amed Shariff. The most important thing for me was to go somewhere safe. I didn't know where.

Member: But if you didn't know why they were taking you, why did you have to go to someplace safe?

Detainee: For sure they would have taken me somewhere safe.

Member: So I take it, then, that you did know that Kabul was going to be attacked?

Translator: I'm sorry?

Member: You did know that Kabul was going to be attacked?

Detainee: There were going to be problems.

Member: Okay. I have no further questions.

Tribunal President: Why did you leave Syria to find a wife? Why not find a wife in Syria?

Detainee: It is very expensive to find a wife. The price is at least \$3000. I might work for years and still not be able to collect that much money. In Afghanistan, it is very cheap. The most is \$300.

Tribunal President: Had you planned on living in Afghanistan?

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Detainee: I was planning to stay for a short period of time. Get married, maybe a couple of years. A short period of time.

Tribunal President: And then return to Syria?

Detainee: No.

Tribunal President: What was your plan after you found a wife and stayed in Afghanistan for two years? What did you plan to do then?

Detainee: I didn't have a practical plan. I was not thinking practical. But possibly I would be going to Jordan. Jordan is close to Syria. And you have some freedoms in Jordan.

Tribunal President: You said Abu Mouad rented the house. Who owned the house?

Detainee: I do not know.

Tribunal President: How did you know to go to that house?

Detainee: I asked. I went to the mosque where people prayed. I prayed there and I asked the people there, "Is there a Syrian person that I can go to?" If that was not possible, then I would have spent the whole time in a hotel.

Tribunal President: Did anyone at the mosque encourage you to go to Afghanistan to find a wife and to stay at that house?

Detainee: The mosque that I was in?

Tribunal President: Yes.

Detainee: Please repeat the question.

Tribunal President: The question is, was there someone at the mosque, one person that encouraged you to go to Afghanistan to find a wife and stay at that house?

Detainee: No, only the house. They showed me the house.

Tribunal President: Okay. So you did not feel that you were being recruited by anyone to fight in Afghanistan?

Detainee: No. Never.

Tribunal President: How did you pay for your trip to Afghanistan?

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Detainee: In Afghanistan?

Tribunal President: Yes. How did you pay for your trip to travel from Syria to Afghanistan?

Detainee: I worked in Syria.

Tribunal President: One time you said you had been a policeman. Were you still a policeman prior to going to Afghanistan?

Detainee: For two and a half years I was a police officer, but later I sold fruits and vegetables.

Tribunal President: Did you use that money to pay for your trip to Afghanistan?

Detainee: Yes.

Tribunal President: How did you support yourself while you were in Afghanistan for nine to ten months?

Detainee: I wasn't the only one that was paying. We all paid. Once my friend, once me, once someone else. We all paid.

Tribunal President: Did you work, other than in the house? Did you work at another job in Afghanistan?

Detainee: No, I did not work.

Tribunal President: Did you handle any weapons while you were in Afghanistan?

Detainee: Never.

Tribunal President: Help me to understand who you were with when you were arrested. You mentioned one name, but who were the other people you were arrested with?

Detainee: Myself, Ali, and Abu Roba and Abdul Hadi.

Tribunal President: So that's four of you?

Detainee: Yes.

Tribunal President: Were you walking or were you in a vehicle?

Detainee: Walking.

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Tribunal President: Did any of the four of you have a weapon when you were arrested?

Detainee: Never.

Tribunal President: That's all I have. Any Tribunal members have any questions?

Members: No ma'am.

Tribunal President: Bilal, do you have any other evidence you would like to present to the Tribunal?

Detainee: That's what I have.

Tribunal President: Personal Representative, do you have any other evidence, or does the detainee have any previously approved witnesses to present?

Personal Representative: Madam President, I have no further evidence and there are no witnesses.

Tribunal President: All unclassified evidence having been provided to the Tribunal, this concludes this Tribunal session.

AUTHENTICATION

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



Colonel, U.S. Army
Tribunal President

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Detainee [REDACTED] Response to allegations in Unclassified Summary

a. The statement is untrue. Me being involved with the Taliban is impossible. I don't speak even a word of Pashtu and I don't know anybody from the Taliban, and I was never associated with anyone from the Taliban.

1. I wanted to go to Afghanistan to find a wife and get married, and stay there. I wanted to live there because its cheaper to get married and to live there. I intended to stay for a while, but not a long time.

2. I stayed the^{re} for nine to ten months. [REDACTED] rented a house, and a few of us stayed with him. It was a normal home, a place to eat, drink and sleep.

3. It is not true that I operated this house, there were no AK 47s at this house. Normally there were only seven of us staying at the house, not 5-20.

4. This statement is not true at all.

5. This is likely a mix up in names. If you find a [REDACTED] on this list, I ask, am I the only [REDACTED] in the world? I told the interrogators that I am [REDACTED] and that there are a lot of [REDACTED]

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