Periodic Review Board: Subsequent Full Review Hearing, ISN 63 Mohammad Mani Ahmad Al Qahtani

Hearing Summary:

The 24 July 2018 Periodic Review Board (PRB) Subsequent Full Review Hearing for ISN 63 Mohammad Mani Ahmad Al Qahtani convened before three members of the public representing:

- American Civil Liberties Union
- Human Rights First
- Judicial Watch, Inc.

ISN 63 underwent his initial PRB hearing on 16JUN2016, and the Board found him to be a continuing threat to the U.S., so recommended him for continued detention under the Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF). The Board cited the detainee's refusal to answer the Board's questions as material to the decision, because while the board was willing to take into account that the detainee's mental ill health contributed greatly to his earlier actions, there was no way for them to determine that his progressing mental health treatment made a significant change to his mindset. The Board subsequently performed a file review on 18JAN2017 and determined that "no significant question is raised as to whether the detainee's continued detention is warranted," a file review on 2AUG2017 and determined that that "no significant question is raised as to whether the detainee's continued detention is warranted," and a file review on 14FEB2018 and determined that "no significant question is raised as to whether the detainee's continued detention is warranted." ISN 63's Subsequent Full Review appears to have been triggered by procedural timing requirements, rather than new information revealed in a file review.

The detainee is a citizen of Saudi Arabia, and began developing psychiatric and mood disorders after trauma at age eight. While ISN 63 traveled to Orlando, FL, to be one of the September 11th hijackers, INS determined him suspicious and deported him to the United Arab Emirates. He thereafter became one of Osama Bin Laden's bodyguards until his detention at GTMO. Susan Crawford, one of the convening authorities, determined in 2009 that ISN 63 underwent treatment that qualified as torture during the early days of his detention. He has since been diagnosed with schizophrenia and depression, and his various attorneys contend that he cannot be held responsible for his past decisions. Saudi Arabia has offered and agreed to take ISN 63 if and when he is authorized for transfer.

In this Subsequent Full Review, ISN 63's Personal Representative expressed to the Board that the detainee has been trying in good faith to follow their encouragement from the initial hearing to cooperate with mental health treatment providers on GTMO, but is hampered by frequent changes in medical personnel following military rotation schedules. The Personal Representative notes that the detainee has recently been diagnosed with PTSD in addition to his other challenges, and that he has stated several times that he understands he may spend long terms in medical facilities if ever released. Per the Personal Representative's analysis, the detainee's large family is willing to constantly monitor him and prevent him from recidivising.

The Private Counsel took the new approach that a transfer should be authorized on medical compassion and treatment reasons, stating that though GTMO has declined to convene a medical board, treatment for the PTSD portion of the detainee's mental health is impossible on island due to lack of adequate facilities and the fact that the U.S. military forces are factors in the PTSD. To expand upon the information about ISN 63's family, the Private Counsel stated that the detainee's father has recognized that his removal of the detainee from a medical treatment facility just before his radicalization was

wrong, and pledges the family to close involvement in ISN 63's monitoring and treatment in Saudi Arabia. Unusually, the Private Counsel made no reliance on the torture factor.

Personal Observations:

ISN 63 appeared healthy, but was constantly twitching, fidgeting, and wiping his face and moustache. Though he appeared willing and engaged when the Private Counsel directed his attention to his papers, his attention wandered quickly. These actions may be symptoms of his mental health or of his medications.

Unlike most of the detainees going through Subsequent Full Review, ISN 63 has allowed for his statement and letter to the Board to be published to the PRS website. His writing style appears earnest, and reflects the slightly scattered quality of his body language in the observed hearing.