Periodic Review Board: Subsequent Full Review Hearing, ISN 242 Khalid Ahmed Qasim

Hearing Summary:

The 25 February 2020 Periodic Review Board (PRB) subsequent full review hearing for ISN 252 Khalid Ahmed Qasim convened under the watch of two observers representing non-governmental organizations:

- Human Rights First
- Judicial Watch, Inc.

The government's background assessment for Khalid Ahmed Qasim indicates he received basic and advanced combat training at Al Farouq Training Camp and provided weapons training to others. He spent some time fighting in Afghanistan before retreating to Tora Bora. At the time of his capture, he fled defeat from the Tora Bora Mountains and was en route to Jalalabad in Afghanistan.

The detainee's personal representative reported being assigned to ISN 242 in September 2019, but having been refused a meeting until the day before the PRB. At that meeting, the personal representative discussed the PRB procedures and the detainee's prior behavior. The personal representative was unable to offer any evaluation of the detainee's mindset, but appeared to indicate that ISN 242 intended to re-engage in the PRB process.

Observations:

Khalid Ahmed Qasim appeared healthy, active, and engaged in the PRB. His right arm was well muscled, though his left arm appeared slightly more slender, comparable when he used each to repeatedly stroke his beard and moustache. It was unclear whether the stroking was a nervous tic, blocking behavior, or preening for the camera. No reason was evident in his mannersisms for his sudden reengagement in the PRB process.

The government summary for the subsequent full review was substantially shorter than the summary for the initial review, which also contained a report of the detainee's noncompliant and combative behavior toward GTMO guardstaff. Though the government appears to have been discouraged from mentioning if ISN 242 continues to throw urine at and spit on his guards, the fact that the personal representative asked about his "prior behavior" indicates that it is likely still an issue.

The Board's initial determination expressed hopefulness for ISN 242's intent to engage with medical staff to resolve issues that may have been connected to his combativeness, and the Board indicated that it would study the detainee's file reviews intently for indications of improvement. In his first subsequent full review on 30JAN2018, he continued a pattern of refusing to answer the Board's questions. Since the 25FEB2020 hearing was triggered as a subsequent full review, it

appears that the detainee has not improved, and so the Board is unlikely to authorize him for transfer.