

## Reviewed

### **Periodic Review Board: Full Review Hearing, ISN 27 Uthman Abd Al Rahim Muhammad Uthman**

#### ***Hearing Summary:***

The 10 December 2019 Periodic Review Board (PRB) Full Review Hearing for ISN 27 Uthman Abd Al Rahim Muhammad Uthman convened before four observers from the public representing:

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

The government concisely repeated its assertions from previous hearings that ISN 27 Uthman traveled to Afghanistan for purposes of jihad, acted as a bodyguard for Osama Bin Laden, and fought at Tora Bora. The government noted that the detainee has consistently denied membership in Al Qaeda and any function as a bodyguard.

The detainee's personal representative reported that ISN 27 faithfully attended all meetings in the past two years, is actively resisting the influence of other detainees, and volunteered to answer all questions, especially those about his contrition and changes in mindset. In an unusual development, the fellow detainees (ISNs 1453 and 1457) who originally identified ISN 27 have submitted statements that they misidentified him. The personal representative explicitly stated that he believes Uthman is no longer a threat to the safety of the United States.

ISN 27's private counsel reaffirmed the personal representative's statements, adding detailed information about the detainee's classwork, his family's pledged support, and the detainee's assertion that traveling to Afghanistan was "a big mistake of his youth." The private counsel also noted that ISN 27 Uthman holds intense faith in the PRB system—but implying by his tone that this was against his advice.

#### ***Observations:***

ISN 27 Uthman elected to present himself as a visual blend of occidental and middle eastern cultures, wearing a tan long-sleeved t-shirt under a traditional jalabiya. He exhibited active interest in the process, sitting straight with a slight forward lean and nodding agreement to particular statements made by his personal representative and private counsel about the pledged support of his family and the detainee's pride in the education accomplishments of his sister.

Such compliance with the Board's previous recommendations is unusual in a detainee: Uthman reportedly immersed himself in self-improvement course offerings and created a complete and reasonable plan of self-support applicable to most countries, as well as making statements of contrition to many different people both able and unable to influence his confinement. Though

the Board determined on 7 February 2020 to maintain ISN 27's detention on the concern that he was tailoring his answers and behavior to gain transfer privileges rather than reflect a change of mindset, the Board also stated it "believes additional time will provide more behavioral information." The Board gave no time limit, most likely for the purpose of testing the detainee's resolve. However, it may review his behavior at the next 6-month file review and elect to schedule a Subsequent Full Review hearing to authorize him for transfer.