

**Periodic Review Board:  
Subsequent Full Review Hearing, ISN 3148 Haroon Al Afghani**

*Hearing Summary:*

The 18 August 2020 Periodic Review Board (PRB) subsequent full review hearing for ISN 3148 Haroon Al Afghani convened under the watch of four observers who represented:

- Indiana University
- Judicial Watch, Inc
- Reprieve International (Mark Mahler, claiming to be private counsel for detainee)
- The Embassy of Afghanistan, Washington, D.C.

The government portrayed ISN 3148 Al Afghani as having been a commander in the Hezba Islami Gulbuddin who led attacks against Coalition forces. Prior to that, he supplied logistics for Al Qa'eda, Hezba Islami Gulbuddin, and other anti-Coalition groups, and ran courier for ISN 10026 Hadi Al Iraqi.

The detainee's personal representative reported that Al Afghani had been stressing that his present concerns are to see peace in Afghanistan and reunite with his family, especially his daughter, who was two months old at the time of his capture and is now in her early teens. The detainee promises he is not a threat to the United States and admits to feeling isolated now that he is the only Afghan detainee. The personal representative affirmed Al Afghani's sincerity and recommends his release. A former personal representative for the detainee also submitted a statement, but its contents were not shared in the unclassified session.

*Observations:*

ISN 3148 Al Afghani, though physically smaller than his translator and personal representative, appeared healthy. He had a slender build, full head of hair, and a thick beard. He shook himself several times and consulted papers in his lap, but otherwise maintained eye contact and remained fully engaged throughout the PRB hearing. Both the translator and the personal representative wore black health masks. The detainee wore no mask; this was probably because masks could prove self-harm hazards, where the detainee could partially ingest a mask with ear loops to suffocate or choke himself, could use a mask with a wire in it to lacerate himself or a guard, or could use a mask with head ties to hang himself or choke a guard. The maskless detainee may represent new COVID-influenced procedures on the detention block.

The representative sent by the Embassy of Afghanistan was unfamiliar with the PRB process, its purpose, and its ramifications, so he may have attended to observe detainee wellness. This is likely a reaction to the reduced access foreign nationals presently have to GTMO.

Many prior detainees have stated that they are not threats and have requested to be reunited with grown children, but Al Afghani's outright promise that he is not a threat and his focus on peace in Afghanistan is unusual. This argument, combined with a possible shift in PRB priorities created by COVID-19, renders the outcome of this detainee's PRB unpredictable. ISN 3148 may be authorized for release.