

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

Hearing Summary:

The 23 February 2021 Periodic Review Board (PRB) subsequent full review hearing for ISN 27 Uthman Abd Al Rahim Muhammad Uthman was observed by four members of the public who represented:

- Indiana University
- *The New York Times*
- ARD (German news media)
- Judicial Watch, Inc.

The government summary was extremely short, identifying the detainee as a bodyguard for Osama Bin Laden and a fighter in the battles at Tora Bora. The summary acknowledges that ISN 27 denies having served as Bin Laden's bodyguard.

ISN 27 chose to attend this session of the PRB and was accompanied by his personal representative. His private counsel was not permitted to travel to GTMO due to Covid-19 restrictions, but he attended the closed session via telepresence. The private counsel read both his and the personal representative's statements.

The personal representative noted that although he had only recently come to represent ISN 27, his conversations with the detainee has shown the detainee to have matured. The detainee believes his early choices in getting involved with Al Qa'eda to have been an uneducated mistake. He further reported that ISN 27 has taken advantage of many educational opportunities while at GTMO, no longer sees war as necessary, and has plans to start a business with the support of his family. The personal representative said that the detainee welcomed all questions and hoped to demonstrate he was no longer a threat.

The statement by the private counsel described the detainee as thoughtful, considerate, and dedicated to his own education. It further indicated that the detainee's family in Yemen has expressed intent to support ISN 27 in the establishment of a business using food trucks to support himself and any future dependents. The private counsel requested that the Board not take into consideration or attempt to verify intelligence either conveyed about or given by the detainee, citing such information as having been extracted under torture.

Observations:

The detainee was unmasked for the hearing, though the personal representative and linguist both wore masks. The detainee appeared healthy and sported a full beard. He actively followed along with the hearing session, demonstrated focus and interest in the proceedings, and maintained a neutral regard. Though the transcript for the closed session of the PRB remains unavailable, the detainee's body language indicated a sincerity in line with his willingness to answer questions, as stated by the personal representative. His receptivity to questions improves his probability of release.

If ISN 27 gains approval for release, Yemen remains one of the countries where detainees will not be repatriated. And given the potential misuse of food trucks for the transport illegitimate cargo, any country approved for the detainee's release will probably not be in the Middle East.