

**Periodic Review Board:  
Subsequent Full Review, ISN 10016 Abu Zubaydah**

*Hearing Summary:*

Four members of the public observed the 15 July 2021 Subsequent Full Review hearing for ISN 10016, Zayn Al Ibadin Muhammed Husayn (Abu Zubaydah), representing:

- Judicial Watch, Inc.
- *The Intercept*
- *Tocqueville 21*
- *Pop Smoke Media*

The government's summary background for ISN 10016 indicated that from 1994 to 1997, he was involved in the recruitment, vetting, and coordination of mujahideen.<sup>1</sup> He continued making use of the network he built to supply Al Qa'eda with recruits. Though he was trusted by Osama Bin Laden, ISN 10016 did not swear bayat (an oath of allegiance) to him because Bin Laden wanted to target the U.S., but he wanted to target Israel.

The personal representative stated that ISN 10016 elected not to submit a written statement and preferred to answer the Board's questions directly, as he was disappointed by the results of the last review he attended. Nevertheless, his representative noted that the detainee's posture remained humorous, intelligent, and respectful. The personal representative also informed the board that the detainee never joined Al Qa'eda, although he had been invited to join many times.

*Observations:*

ISN 10016 appeared distracted on the video feed, though he was well groomed and sat in a relaxed posture. He wiggled his foot idly as he spoke with his personal representative, fiddled with his watch and a pen in his pocket, and frequently wiped his nose with a tissue. The hearing did not address it, but the detainee appeared to have had a cold or allergies, and this may have contributed to his inattention during the proceedings.

Although the personal representative credited ISN 10016 with many positive qualities, he failed to mention any remorse or intent to operate differently in the future. This may be because the detainee has expressed in the past his plans to become an author and live off of a settlement of multiple thousands of euros, thereby pursuing a new path. But it could also signify a lack of remorse.

A policy shift may have impacted the composition of the Board during this hearing. Where personal representatives usually address the "members of the Board" or "gentlemen and ladies of the Board," this personal representative only addressed the "gentlemen of the Board." This may have been due to an actual change in the composition of the Board, or it could be the result of a policy decision reflective of changing gender reference policies within government. What potential impact, if any, this may have on the Board's determination as to whether a detainee remains a continuing threat to the U.S. is unclear, but it is a definite change not seen previously.

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<sup>1</sup> Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Mujahideen". Encyclopedia Britannica, 25 Jun. 2020, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/mujahideen-Islam>, Accessed 6 August 2021.