Hearing Summary:

Two observers attended the 29 July 2021 Periodic Review Board (PRB) subsequent full review hearing for ISN 10023 Hasan Ahmed Guleed, representing:

- Judicial Watch, Inc.
- Russian news media

The Board delayed proceedings until 9:35 a.m. due to technical difficulties that allowed observers to view the detainee and his team but not hear the presented information. An exchange server passing traffic between GTMO and the mainland was restarted and worked fully when connection was reestablished.

The government presented a very short summary of ISN 10023's activities prior to his capture, tracing his travel to Afghanistan in 1995 to train with Al Qa'eda, then to Somalia in 1996 to fight against Ethiopia. Thereafter, he provided logistical, operational, and intelligence-gathering support to Al Qa'eda in East Africa (AQEA).

The personal representative noted that detainee’s private counsel previously recommended against detainee’s meeting with him due to an ongoing habeas corpus case. Now, however, detainee’s private counsel no longer objects to their meeting. The detainee had maintained some form of contact with the personal representative despite recommendations to the contrary. The personal representative finished his statement by noting that ISN 10023’s relatives in the U.S. and in Canada had pledged support for him upon his release or transfer.

The private counsel was in attendance but made no public statement. As of 4 August 2021, no documents about the PRB have been posted other than the government summary, so the private counsel's intent remains unclear.

Observations:

ISN 10023 appeared healthy during his PRB. He wore a white knit cap in a traditional style, a three-quarter sleeve shirt or jalabiya, black sneakers, and a periwinkle glove. His beard was short and neatly trimmed, mostly black with a central grey stripe. At the beginning of the session, he appeared to be actively discussing the papers on the table with his personal representative and private counsel, but he spent the rest of the session sitting in a relaxed posture and leaning to the side. Unusually, the interpreter was seated at a 90-to-120-degree angle to the detainee, rather than parallel, and seemed to motion for the detainee's attention on the few occasions when he spoke. (This may indicate that ISN 10023 has some unreported difficulty hearing.)

If the detainee's counsel uses arguments like those currently being made about other detainees, the emphasis will be that ISN 10023 is not a threat to the U.S. because he remained focused on fighting in Africa and not surveilling U.S. Camp Lemonnier for Al Qa'eda. Past arguments have focused on questioning any evidence that the detainee was part of Al Qa'eda and instead accusing the U.S. government of holding him out of embarrassment that he was tortured by the CIA. Unless the private counsel made an unusual argument in closed session, authorization of ISN 10023 for transfer does not appear reasonable.