Periodic Review Board: Subsequent Full Review, ISN 10029 Muhammad Rahim

Hearing Summary:

The Periodic Review Board subsequent full review of Muhammad Rahim (ISN 10029) was held on February 15, 2022. The following representatives of two non-governmental organizations observed the hearing:

- Judicial Watch
- Indiana University

There were no media representatives in attendance.

Muhammad Rahim attended his review, along with his personal representative. Although it was reported that the detainee had been advised by new private counsel, his new counselor did not attend the hearing.

The government noted that Muhammad Rahim had been a translator, courier, and financier for both the Taliban and Al Qa'eda. As such, he had advanced knowledge of attacks and worked to enable them.

The personal representative reported that the detainee regularly attended meetings in preparation for this review. The personal representative also announced that, on the advice of detainee's private counsel, Muhammad Rahim would only answer questions about his plans and preferences; any questions about his past, whether prior to or during detention, would be declined.

Observations:

Muhammad Rahim appeared to be in good health and seemingly tried to project an image of educated and aloof traditionalism. He was wearing a traditional soft cap and long vest, his beard was died with henna, and his glasses were adjusted at a reading angle for the entire session. He sipped from a coffee cup in one hand and appeared to follow along with the session notes in the other. He did not interact with the personal representative or the translator, and he did not appear to look at the Board.

The Board noted in prior reviews the need for the detainee to discuss his past activities to they could assess his present attitudes and potential to re-engage in terrorist activities. His refusal at this juncture to discuss his past activities is contrary to the Board's expectations and should be assessed as non-compliant, if not insolent. If the Board authorizes the detainee for transfer, that will be a direct indication of political pressure impacting determination outcome. As a detainee with an ISN in the tenthousands (ISN 10029), Muhammad Rahim is considered a High-Value Detainee (HVD) whose past terror-related associations and activities are well-known. To transfer him to country where he presumably would not be a continuing threat, the State Department would likely have to negotiate a place in Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, or one of the Scandinavian countries – none of which have exhibited a willingness to take more detainees in recent years.