Periodic Review Board: Subsequent Full Review, 23 June 2022 ISN 10017 Mustafa Faraj Muhammad Masud Al Jadid Al Uzaybi (Al Libi)

Events:

The Periodic Review Secretariat (PRS) convened a subsequent full review Periodic Review Board (PRB) for ISN 10017 Mustara Faraj Muhammad Masud Al Jadid Al Uzaybi (ISN 10017), commonly known as Abu Faraj al Libi, on 23 June 2022. Two observers and one journalist attended the open session, representing:

- Judicial Watch, Inc.
- Indiana University
- Al Jazeera English

Al Libi attended the hearing in the company of his personal representative, private counsel, and one interpreter, at the expeditionary court facilities at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station.

The government's summary consisted of a single sentence reminding observers and Board members that Al Libi had, as a young man, traveled to Afghanistan for the purpose of fighting. There, he joined Al Qa'eda, became a general manager in the organization, earned the trust of Osama Bin Laden and Ayman Al Zawahiri, and gave advice and facilitated intra-organization communication.

The personal representative related that the detainee had been hesitant about working within the PRB system and refused the first two meeting requests. He accepted the third meeting request and continuously took notes, asked questions, requested a private counsel, and was assisted in obtaining one. The private counsel was known to have contacted Al Libi's family, with whom he had requested to be reunited.

The private counsel read a multi-page statement that was interrupted by multiple redactions, which contained excerpts from Al Libi's interview and interrogation records, excerpts from letters provided by friends and family, and statements by private counsel about pending lawsuits and the detainee's character.

Observations:

Al Libi (ISN 10017) appeared at the hearing wearing loose white attire that emphasized the stark contrasts in his physical appearance like that of his long white beard and dark brown hair and sideburns, his slender and tall build, and his thick-lensed black glasses. Though thinner than most detainees, he did not appear emaciated or otherwise physically stressed, and he lacked the greying hair and facial wrinkles other detainees have displayed in their early forties. He listened to the proceedings on headphones, stared at the papers in front of him, and appeared to brace himself in his chair.

The private counsel's statement resembled several made by newly obtained private counsels for other detainees, which have not historically convinced the Board to authorize transfer. Delivered in confrontational tones, the statement first castigated the government for ever-shortening PRB summaries, holding the detainee without charges, and retaining him as a threat despite his claim of peacefulness. It went on to state that Al Libi would not be answering questions about his past or about his pending habeas corpus suit, repeatedly claim that he had been tortured, and continue to attribute all his medical problems to his detention. It did not present any of the detainee's future plans after transfer,

beyond living with his family, and sought to assure the board that he had friends or family in many countries to assist him. A far-reaching network would ordinarily work against a detainee since this same network could ostensibly be used to perform communications operations for Al Qa'eda.

If the Board authorizes Al Libi for transfer and cites contents within the private counsel's statement as a factor in that decision, it is likely due to political pressure or a pre-determined transfer authorization.