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Summarized Sworn Detainee Statement

When asked by the Tribunal President the detainee stated he understood the CSRT process and he did not have any questions.

When the Tribunal President asked if the Detainee had any questions concerning the Tribunal process, the Detainee commented he was concerned with the amount of time he was given to prepare for the process.

Detainee: Yesterday, I met with my Personal Representative (PR) for about two hours and today I met with him for approximately 30 minutes. I feel for such a serious matter that could determine my faith, the system is flawed. I understand the wording from the script you have read, but I don't believe the script is straightforward.

Tribunal President: Is there any part in particular? Would you like me to read through it again and try to explain the terms as I go?

Detainee: I think going through it again would be a good idea. There are some terms I would like to ask about, mainly the accusations I have been accused of.

President: We want you to understand the process and what we are going through here, so I will go through this one more time.

Detainee: I am not one hundred percent sure on what you mean by the definition of 'enemy combatant?' I read it earlier with my PR, but I would like to have a better understanding of the process.

[The Tribunal President reads the definition of an 'enemy combatant' to the Detainee.]

President: One thing I would like you to understand, the panel has not seen any of the evidence against you. At this point, you may be right that you have not properly been classified as an enemy combatant. We have not yet had a chance to view the evidence to say you are or aren't from this point of view. You have been classified as an enemy combatant by the United States. Our job is to do an administrative review of this classification to ensure it was done properly. That is what we are here to do today.

Detainee: I still don't fully understand the actions I have committed, to be classified as an enemy combatant. I have read the definition of "enemy combatant" several times. I find it to be very vague and too have many meanings. For instance, I carried a weapon with your enemy, so I am an enemy combatant. I would like to fully understand this, so I can defend myself.

President: As you have heard from the Oath we took, we are to apply our common sense, our knowledge, our sense of justice to this definition and to you, in order to come to a conclusion as to whether you have been properly classified as an enemy combatant or not. That is what we are going to do today. We are going to go over the evidence that

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the government provided. You are going to see the unclassified portion. I am going to make an assumption at this point there is classified evidence you won't be able to read, but I think the important thing for you to do is to tell us your story, your truths and then we will weigh that against the evidence and we will try and put it all together. Your faith is in our hand if you will, it is designed to be a broader definition than specific incidents because no one individual would meet all specific incidents. It is a broad definition, but we will apply our professional judgment, we will apply good common sense and we will give you an honest and fair opportunity to defend yourself.

Detainee: Thank you.

When asked by the Tribunal President if the Detainee was ready to proceed, the Detainee stated, "yes."

[After the Unclassified evidence was submitted to the Tribunal panel, The President took a recess to allow the PR to go over exhibits R-4 and R-5 with the Detainee; when it was discovered the PR had not previously seen the exhibits.]

[The Tribunal President explained for the record:] The Detainee requested seven witnesses; three witnesses were requested to testify concerning his arrest that were told you were not arrested at the time of your detention. Since the conditions of his arrest are not a factor as to whether or not he is an enemy combatant, these witnesses are deemed not relevant. Therefore, the requests for those witnesses have been denied. The Detainee also requested three witnesses who were suppose to be members of the British Intelligence Agency, but he only provided first names. The British Intelligence Agency was expected to testify that they were aware of the information indicated in the unclassified summary. I don't believe whether the British Intelligence Agency knew of that information or not is irrelevant. That request was denied.

Detainee: [referring to the Unclassified Summary of the Evidence, marked as Exhibit R-1, (hereinafter referred to as "Exhibit R-1")] Paragraph 3.a.5: In addition to helping Abu Qatada evade British authorities, the detainee transferred funds between branches of the Arab Bank at Abu Qatada's direction in 1999 and 2000. My request for the British Intelligence Agents is to say they knew about that.

[The Tribunal President asked the Detainee if he had told the British Intelligence Agency where Abu Qatada was?]

Detainee: Do you want me to go through this now or wait until later when I can go over each individual point?

President: Why don't you do it later during your sworn statement. At this time, because of the lack of last names, they are unreasonably available. I still determine they are not relevant at this point.

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Detainee: The individuals actually came here to visit me on more than one occasion, so they aren't unknown.

[Tribunal member makes a suggestion to listen to the Detainees sworn statement and then, at a later point, make a determination on the relevancy of the witness.]

President: The Detainee requested his lawyer testify 'that what he has been accused of in the summary of evidence is not illegal in Britain'. This is not a legal proceeding and the testimony has no relevance on this proceeding. The request for the witness is denied.

Detainee: The part that says I transferred funds under the direction of Abu Qatada. The money went to Abu Qatada's father who I would like to testify to this, since he actually received the money and what the money was used for.

Tribunal President: Because of the short time you had to prepare for this Tribunal (that you interjected earlier), I will hold that witness into consideration as well, and if I feel it will be relevant to the decision, I will reconsider that witness request."

Detainee: Thank you.

[The Tribunal President asked the Detainee if he could provide information on where Abu Qatada's father is located? The Detainee stated he was in Jordan and he could possibly provide an oral statement. The President commented he just wanted to make sure the Detainee could provide a location if he was determined to be relevant.]

When asked by the Tribunal President if he wanted to make a statement the detainee stated yes and provided his statement after electing to be sworn. The detainee testifies essentially as follows:

[Regarding Exhibit R-1, paragraph 3.a.1. (The Detainee provided harbor in London, United Kingdom to a known al Qaeda fugitive in the name of Abu Qatada.)]

Detainee: Please clarify the word 'harbor', so I can understand the accusation.

President: In this case, I would look at the word to mean shelter, to hide him from authorities, protection.

Detainee: Abu Qatada is Jordanian and has lived in Britain for several years after being granted political asylum by the British authorities. Abu Qatada is a preacher and my friend. Many consider him a fundamentalist. The authorities don't necessarily like what he said, but he was never arrested for it. Before September 11th Abu had appeared on television, but after September 11th, he became very well known in the media and made several television appearances. My involvement with Abu started as it has with many people in the community. Because I speak English, I have been asked to translate for people. The same is true for Abu. He has asked me to translate for him and because I am handy around the house, he asked me to help him with repairs. I have listened to Abu

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preach, as well as many others. Over the years we have become friends. As I said previously, when he gets in touch with me it is usually for a specific reason (translating or home repairs).

Detainee: Before my trip to Africa and subsequent kidnapping, Britain did not classify Abu Qatada as al Qaida. During the time I have known Abu Qatada I have translated for him in several meetings with officials from either the British Intelligence Agency or the British police. In those meetings, the word al Qaida was never mentioned.

Detainee: "My mother told me to stay away from al Qaida."

[Detainee continued his statement:]

During a meeting with British Intelligence, I had asked if it was okay for me to continue to have a relationship with Abu Qatada? They assured me it was; they just wanted to understand more about Abu Qatada and the community.

I have lived in Britain for 18 years; and I don't have a criminal record. Nothing indicated Abu was involved with al Qaida. I only learned about the word 'al Qaida' after 11 September. Abu was not wanted by the police, when I helped him find a place to live. Several times I tried to end my association with Abu, but after a few months passed, he would call and say he needed my help and the relationship would start again. I never saw anything that indicated he was a real threat. The reason my family (and others) chose to live in the western world was for freedom.

[Exhibit R-1, paragraph 3.a.2 (The Detainee assisted Abu Qatada by locating an apartment where Abu Qatada hid from British authorities.)]:

Yes, I have told you I found an apartment for Abu. I don't deny it. When I was young, people saw my father as being a bad person because he was arrested by the Iraqi Secret Police. I made a conscience decision not to abandoned Abu Qatada.

After 11 September life changed. The British government passed a law that allowed authorities to indefinitely detain anyone they felt uncomfortable with. However, if the individual chose, they could leave Britain for another country. After this law passed, Abu disappeared. I had no idea where he was. When he disappeared I received a call from the British Intelligence Agency asking if I knew where Abu was? At that time, I didn't. Overtime, someone from the community told me Abu wanted to see me and I met him a mosque.

Tribunal member: When you say community, are you referring to the Muslim community?

Detainee: Yes, the Muslim community in London.

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My relationship with the British authorities started again after 11 Sept. They asked if I knew where Abu Qatada was? I told them I did. They also wanted some information that I was unable to provide them at the time (without going in to details). I took a role as a go between for the British Intelligence Agency and Abu Qatada. During the time he was supposedly in hiding from them the British authorities, they knew where Abu was and they used it to their advantage. During my relationship with the British Intelligence Agency, I never asked for anything or took money from them.

[Exhibit R-1, paragraph 3.a.3. (Abu Qatada has strong links to senior al Qaida operatives and facilitated the travel of individuals to an al Qaida guesthouse located in Pakistan.)]

[Detainee stated he would read from his notes:]

I was not aware of Abu's alleged activities nor did I participate in them in any way. I don't recall Abu ever asking me to do anything illegal. In fact, the type of assistance I provided to Abu (which I mentioned earlier) is not considered illegal anywhere in the world. I didn't do anything for Abu that I haven't done for other people in my community. Additionally, I have never traveled to Pakistan or Afghanistan (until the United States kidnapped me and put me on a flight to Afghanistan). I have never had any military training. If Abu was sending people to Afghanistan, he never mentioned it to me.

[Exhibit R-1, paragraph 3.a.4 (Abu Qatada is a known al Qaida operative who was arrested in the United Kingdom as a danger to national security.)]

Detainee: For argument sake, lets say Abu was a threat to national security. I was known to be Abu's friend before and after his arrest. The British authorities knew me very well. I never hid, or tried to hide from them. I always used my full name. If I presented such a threat, I would have thought they would have arrested me. I was never arrested. I think the law that was passed in London is relevant. If people are such a threat, then why does the law allow them to leave the country?

[Exhibit R-1, paragraph 3.a.5 (In addition to helping Abu Qatada evade British authorities, the Detainee transferred funds between branches of the Arab Bank at Abu Qatada's direction in 1999 or 2000.)]

Detainee: As for the word direction, for Abu or anyone else who wanted me to do something for them, all they had to do was ask me very nicely. Yes, on a few occasions, I transferred between two and three thousand dollars to Abu's father from London to Jordon. The money was collected from joint prayer during our festive season. The money was sent legally to Jordon to help the poor. I went to the bank and filled out the form with my name and address (what ever information they needed). I have no reason to doubt what these funds were used for. Abu's father visited London a couple of times, and during normal conversation I asked him about the funds. Abu's father was also questioned about the money by Jordon's Intelligence Agency. "I assure you they are more persuasive than you and nothing came out of it." Jordon is a small country and

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these funds were sent to the capital. The Jordanian Intelligence had things under control. "I want to say that I will always be ready to offer my assistance to the poor and needy regardless of their religion and race. I strongly believe that the transfer of funds from the rich to the poor should be encouraged."

"It is very important for you to understand that I did not participate in any illegal activities whatsoever."

[Exhibit R-1, paragraph 3.a.6 (In November 2002, the detainee was arrested in Gambia after arriving from the United Kingdom and was later transferred to U.S. custody in Bagram, Afghanistan.)]

Detainee: I can't see the last point to be an accusation. Is it an accusation?

Tribunal President: It is part of a statement.

Detainee: The evidence has discrepancies. That is not quite how it happened. When my friend Jamil and I got off the plane in Gambia the Immigration officer took our travel documents and pointed to the side. I had an Iraqi passport. Jamil had a British travel document. Our British friend came along and the Immigration officer pointed to the side again. I said, "this doesn't look good." He held on to our travel documents, didn't say a word and pointed again to the side. We were taken to an ordinary room in the airport. They kept telling us there wasn't a problem. Then, they said there was a small problem. Towards the end it was still just a small problem. We were taken to the Gambia Intelligence Agency where we were put in ordinary rooms. The very next morning US officials were running the show, taking pictures, and asking questions. However, the word terrorism or al Qaida was never mentioned. They were interested in my brother's peanut processing business that he was establishing in Gambia. I had traveled to Gambia to install his machinery. I planned on staying in Gambia a month to six weeks; before taking a week or two vacation.

The way things happened in Gambia was similar to the way a criminal gang would operate (from what I have seen on television). They did not beat us up on that occasion in Gambia.

The paragraph says I was later transferred to US custody. In Gambia, the Americans were running the show. Some of our things were convincingly taken away from us. My brother had exported some trucks, machinery, tools and plywood. The container with the plywood was searched thoroughly. I personally packed everything in that container. The plywood we exported for my brother's business was used to construct our cells. I later realized the shampoo and food we were given were the supplies we had taken with us to Gambia. The three to four thousand dollars I had on me at the time was also taken. I hope it is in good hands, although, I'm not quite sure. I will probably never see it again.

During our stay we were not given adequate food and the hygiene standards were very interesting. The word arrest or terrorism was never used. Their primary focus of the

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questioning regarded Abu Qatada. After two weeks in Gambia I mentioned to the officials my relationship with the British Intelligence Agency. I was hoping they could resolve the situation. I understood they were holding us was because they were suspicious. However, the situation was not handled properly.

President: You mentioned you wanted to speak to the other pieces of evidence, which I believe are copies of newspaper articles the FBI used.

Detainee: There are a few things that are incorrect with regards to our arrest.

Detainee: The document stated four individuals. There was a fifth individual in Gambia who was with my brother. He was a Gambian national and was also released. My brother and his other friend were released and sent back to the United Kingdom. It says initially there was a problem with our Visas. There wasn't any problems with our Visas. In fact, we had obtained multiple entry Visas from the United Kingdom. Regarding subsequent links to terrorist groups: The questioning concerned Abu Qatada. They were interested in the time he spent in hiding. During the questioning they tried to recruit us. "After a brief period of questioning, at the Headquarters of the National Intelligence Agency, the investigation was taken over by US officials." As I have stated before, the US was there and in charge from day one. They were not very respectful to the Gambians. Paragraph four states my brother was released, in December, without being charged and went back to the United Kingdom. The date was correct, but a US official told me my brother didn't want to leave Gambia unless he knew I was okay. The official asked me to write my brother a letter letting him know I was okay. They told me I was going to Afghanistan and my brother was going to Britain. I believe my brother was forced to leave Gambia.

Detainee: Exhibit R-5 is not correct. It says I was handed over to the UK authorities. I don't believe the UK authorities had anything to do with this; I believe they meant the US. Exhibit R-5, paragraph 3: "The interrogation took a new twist when the Gambian authorities, who were acting on behalf of the United States, invited American Intelligence personnel to quiz the al Qaida suspects" This was incorrect. They were there from day one.

Detainee: I would like for you to read the letter from my lawyer.

Tribunal President: Do you know where the letter is?

Detainee: Yes, in my cell.

Tribunal President: We will consider asking for it, if we think it is relevant.

[PR hands President Exhibit D-B (the Detainees personal written statement)]

[Tribunal President: Does that conclude your statement?

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Detainee: Yes, at this time, it is all I can remember.

Summarized Answers in Response to Questions by the Tribunal Members

Q. I am going to take you back to London. Is Abu Qatada an Aman-e-Sheik of a mosque?

A. Yes. He is like a preacher; he preaches every Friday.

Q. Forgive me for saying this, I am going to use a Christian analogy, his Congregation met in a public forum?

A. Yes

Q. Did he have a name for it?

A. We don't give it a particular name. We call it by the area it is in.

Q. You say that generally. What was this particular one called?

A. Every six months or so there was a reason to move. I have known three of them, but I don't recall their names.

Q. They were in London?

A. They were in London. They were not a secret. The Intelligence Agency knew about them.

Q. Did you consider Abu Qatada to have any Islamic authority or any authority to issue a Fatwa?

A. Yes. People would come and ask him all the time. I would translate for him.

Q. Did he ever issue a Fatwa or Jihad against the United States, the United Kingdom, or any of its coalition partners?

A. I don't believe he has. He approves and encourages people to go to Jihad (holy war). He has worse things to say about a country like Jordan or our part of the world, than he does about the West. However, he doesn't say good things about the West either.

Q. I would think he would consider those Apostates?

A. To be honest, they don't have anything good to say about any country.

Q. Given all the suspicions surrounding Abu Qatada, his penchant for Jihad, why did you continue your association with him?

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A. Talking about Jihad, this is something everybody does in London. There isn't a mosque you can go to that doesn't talk about Jihad.

Q. Lets just say Jihad in the violent sense.

A. Not everyone in London talks about Jihad in the violent sense. When someone uses the word Jihad, it doesn't mean it is against the United States. There are many issues in the world; some are just, and some are not. If I stayed away from everyone who preached Jihad, I would have to stay away from everyone who is Islamic in London. Personally, my family and I have suffered greatly since 11 September. I have family and property in the US and we are involved with the stock market. My life is not the same. After 11 September, I listened to preaching and they still talked about Jihad. However, I did not hear anything specific about killing Americans.

After 11 September, I asked Abu Qatada what he thought about it? If you stand back and look at it, it was a problem for everyone. Abu told me, "Bisher, if I was asked about 11 September, shall we do it or not, I would have said no." I also told the interrogators that if people had the same mentality as Abu Qatada, the world would have a lot less problems. I am not saying he is your friend, but he looks at things differently. He taught me to look at the consequences of my actions. I wish I could have gotten my interrogators to understand this.

Q. Knowing what you know now about al Qaida, and the definition of al Qaida, would you consider yourself or Abu Qatada, to be associated with al Qaida?

A. What I have learned about Abu Qatada and the association with al Qaida after 11 September are things associated with the newspaper. The newspapers say he is al Qaida.

Q. Did you ever observe anything in your relationship or interaction with him?

A. After I read the newspapers and was interrogated, I thought maybe he was al Qaida. After the papers and officials in Gambia said he was al Qaida, I tried to defend him. For two years it has been forced in my head that he is al Qaida. I try and go back to the time when I never thought he was al Qaida. The facts haven't changed, just the conversations and forced arguments. In hindsight, I wish I hadn't known him at all.

Q. What was your line of work in the United Kingdom?

A. I am from a wealthy family. I didn't really have a job.

Q. What about education? Tell me about your education?

A. I was a bad student. I went to the University, but I didn't finish. My family gives me money if I need it.

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Q. What line of work does your family do?

A. My family owns quite a bit of property. We own property in the United States, Iraq and Jordan. My mother is Jordanian and my father is Iraqi. Our money is in the stock exchange.

Q. Has any of your family businesses come under suspicion as being associated with al Qaida?

A. Not that I am aware of. My brother went to Gambia to start a peanut processing factory and this is how the whole story started. Many questions have been asked about the way my brother got the money for the factory, which cost him approximately two hundred thousand dollars. He refinanced his flat to pay for his business. This can easily be checked. As far as I am concerned, our financial affairs have never been scrutinized.

Q. When you wired money to Abu Qatada's father, did you know who he was?

A. Yes, he had visited London a few times.

Q. In Gambia, did the Americans identify themselves?

A. No, they lied. One instance, an interrogator asked me what he could do to make people cooperate with him? He asked me if it would help if he were Gambian? I told him I thought it would. He said he had a Gambian passport. After that, he claimed he was Gambian.

Q. Why didn't you tell the Gambians you were a UK citizen?

A. I'm not. I carry an Iraqi passport. I was entitled to get my British citizenship, however, I did not apply for it.

Q. How long have you lived in the UK?

A. Approximately 18 years.

Q. When you mentioned British Intelligence came here, what did they discuss with you?

A. It was a reunion. We discussed some things I don't want to go into.

Q. Back to point two, the British Intelligence authorities. It says you assisted Abu Qatada by locating an apartment. You said the Intelligence people came and asked you where he was. Was he wanted at that time? Were they going to arrest him under that law?

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A. I was certain they would not arrest him. They just wanted to talk to him. I'm not saying we were trying to resolve the world problems, but I was hoping to achieve something, but unfortunately we didn't.

Q. Also regarding the British Intelligence who you requested as a witness (and the President will talk about again) I am not going to tell you that if you tell us all about your meeting you will be released. Is there anything from that meeting with them that would be helpful to us to support your story or the fact that we really need to call those people in?

A. I told them I was fearful they would try to trap me or get me in trouble, they told me definitely not. I had a long discussion with another individual (a British Intelligence lawyer) regarding legal matters. I mentioned "if something was to happen to me, if I was to be arrested, what can I do?" I wanted to protect myself. He told me I could request for him to come as a witness; the agents will not be allowed to deny you that.

Q. Do you know which one of those people that was?

A. I didn't give you his name because he did not come here. From my understanding they use presumed names and the other gentleman's name is Simon. He is the lawyer in the agency. He did not come here. The other three guys are the one's that came here.

Q. You talked to Simon why you were still in London were they talked to you about where Abu Qatada was?

A. Yes.

Q. And you think they would be able to tell us you were working with them as a liaison?

A. As far as I'm concerned. Obviously the story that I tell you took place is the way I saw it. I accept there will be some discrepancies, but if they tell you they don't know me then they are not telling the truth. Of course there will always be some differences in our points of view, but that is how I saw things.

Q. As far as the transfer of funds, you said it was one to three thousand dollars.

A. Approximately.

Q. Was that each time?

A. The number of times I transferred funds was probably three or four times. This was over a three to four year period. That is why I saw nothing wrong with it. This is a very legal normal process. This money is going to feed people. I don't consider three to four thousand pounds a lot of money. For the life of me I can't relate it to terrorism.

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Q. Was it pounds or dollars?

A. I am saying dollars because they prefer the currency.

Tribunal President: I understand I just wanted to make sure I was clear in what you were saying.

Detainee: The money would initially be in pounds, we change it into dollars and then we send it. In Jordan it is easier to deal with dollars.

Q. So my understanding in the way they deal with money, you would go to a mosque on a Friday, there would be a collection and then Abu Qatada would give that to you and say 'here give this money to my father in Jordan to distribute to the poor?'

A. They made collections all the time and the money accumulated. The meeting would be in the place of prayer; the mosque we went to. I referred to the money on the particular day I received it. I took it to the bank and exchanged it into dollars. Sometimes I would go to the bank on the same day sometimes a day or two later, depending on how lazy I was. A few days after I sent the money, someone would call the family and ensured they received the money. One time the money took longer than normal and I was sent to the bank to clear the matter up.

Q. This was eighty three times over three to four years and it was three to four thousand dollars each time?

A. Three or four times. It could be a few more times. It was less than eight times.

Q. The trip to Gambia, how did your brother arrive at peanut processing?

A. My brother isn't always sensible. He had been looking to start a business for a long time and had several good ideas, including generating home electricity. Unfortunately, none of his ideas ever materialized. I had discussed with my father, before he passed away, about buying a restaurant for my brother. I still think that is a good idea. One day Omar, the fifth person who was with me when I was arrested, started talking about peanuts. My brother and I have known Omar and his family for approximately fifteen years. Omar knew my family had money, so he would throw business ideas our way. I usually listened when people came to me with ideas on how to make money. Gambia is a country that grows peanuts. Omar started talking about peanut processing. I was looking desperately at something for my brother to get involved in. When the opportunity came for my brother, I was excited. Omar had arranged for my brother to buy the peanut processing machinery in India. Everything was purchased legitimately. Personally, if it were up to me, I would have stayed in Gambia awhile and checked things out before buying the equipment.

The idea was to have a mobile factory. Instead of bringing the peanuts to the factory, we would have gone to the farmer, bought and processed the peanuts, then moved on. The

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remainder of the peanuts would have been sold for animal feed. The idea would have allowed us to be very competitive and we would have saved on transport costs. I believe it was a unique idea and it would have worked. My part in the business would have included setting up the machines on the trailer and ensuring they worked properly.

Q. Did you fly directly from Great Britain to Gambia?

A. Yes.

Q. You mentioned you thought the letter from your lawyer would be helpful. In what way do you think it will be helpful?

A. It will give you a different point of view.

Q. And you have that in your cell?

A. Yes.

Q. When you were questioned by the US authorities in Gambia, was Abu Qatada already in custody at that point?

A. Yes, when I traveled from London, Abu Qatada was already in custody for over a week. When he was arrested in London, his family was with him. When they arrested him, his family needed to go back home. They got in touch with me and my friend Jamil (905) and we came and reassured them everything was okay. The police said, "thank you very much for coming." They asked me my name and I told them. They were very nice.

Q. How long had you been planning your trip to Gambia?

A. I told my brother on many occasions to go to Gambia. I told him the minute he needed me I would buy a ticket and come. He called me and told me I had to come now. I prayed to god. My mom told me don't travel, my sister and brother in law told me don't travel, I didn't want to travel but my brother insisted. I knew I shouldn't go, but I'm went anyway.

Q. Your brother was already down there?

A. No, my brother was in London.

Q. Oh, he was back?

A. We did some shopping. Any money I was going to make from Gambia I was going to give it to Gambia. It was a poor country and I didn't need the money. I wanted to teach welding. We had gone shopping and I had gotten my shots. I took him to the airport and a week later I traveled with two other guys. At the airport in the United Kingdom, we were arrested. They said they had arrested me because of my battery charger. I had

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played around with it and converted it. It was still just a battery charger. I liked recycling things and using rechargeable batteries. I had even bought my friend Abu Qatada a battery charger and batteries.

Q. So, they stopped you for having that?

A. Do you want what they said, or what I believe? They wanted an excuse. The week prior to our arrest, Jamil and I were with Abu Qatada at his hide out. They wanted to talk to us. After they arrested us, they told us we were entitled to a lawyer. I told them, I didn't need a lawyer because I hadn't done anything. They interrogated me for several hours. I was very tired. I missed my flight. I was polite. They asked me about my life, and I answered all their questions. They wanted to ask about Abu Qatada. I told them, "they arrested me because of the battery charger. What did Abu Qatada have to do with that? If they suspect me, what does Abu Qatada have to do with this?" I told them I wouldn't answer any questions about Abu Qatada. I didn't want to answer because I thought it was abuse, they weren't being straightforward. If they wanted to talk to me, they could have just asked instead of making up an excuse about the battery charger. They lied in court. They made excuses. They said they had to bring a specialist from another country to look at the battery charger. The interrogator was very nice. He told me he had asked about Abu Qatada, because he got his instructions from somebody else. I was straightforward with him. I have nothing to hide. In hindsight, I would have asked for a lawyer and not answered their questions.

Q. You were leaving from Gambia, when this happened?

A. The first time.

Q. They held you and you missed the flight?

A. Yes. We missed the flight and they detained us for about three or four days. We were released. Our lawyer told them their place is not here, it is with their factory. I said absolutely.

Q. But you did go to court over that?

A. No.

Q. You said they lied in court?

A. They went to court because the law restricts them for the amount of time they can detain us. I learned from my lawyer they had gone to court and extended us. They gave the excuse they had to bring an expert from another country. I knew what I had and I told them about it. I had another identical battery charger in my suitcase. I converted it. I hadn't converted the electronics in anyway. I just made it waterproof.

Q. How long before you actually went to Gambia did this happen?

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A. We were going to travel on a Friday. We got arrested and were detained for a few days. We got released on Wednesday. The day we got released, we got in touch with the travel agency where we bought our initial tickets. We were told our tickets were void. The airline wouldn't accommodate us for missing our flight. We did receive a partial refund and booked our tickets over the phone. The next day we went and got our things from the police. They had raided our homes and took various items. We were released and not charged with anything. We got an apology and a smile.

Q. They released you and said you are free to go and no charges?

A. No charges.

Q. They cleared your battery charger?

A. Yes, of course. We went through a list and got everything back. Some items were damaged, but that's the nature of things. We got everything they took from us back. From our home and the airport.

Q. So you got everything back and they said you were free to go?

A. On Thursday. Friday we traveled again. Of course then, we were a bit hesitant to travel. My other friend Abdulla didn't want to travel. I didn't want to travel in the first place. But if we didn't go, it would be a disaster for my brother.

Q. On Friday, when you traveled, the airline tickets were purchased using your name Bashir Al Rawi?

A. I'm sorry I don't understand?

Q. Your name was on your ticket?

A. Yes.

Q. You didn't travel under an assumed name?

A. No. Everyone used their real name. The first time we had planned to travel, we paid for extra weight. We had an interesting relationship with the lady at the counter. When we came back the following week she said, "didn't you travel last week?" Everything went smooth the second time. I had asked to speak with an official at the airport. I explained that the previous week we were arrested, and I wanted to make sure there wasn't going to be any problems this time. The police told me they were very busy and didn't have time. I told them they weren't busy last week when I tried to travel. We traveled to Gambia one week after we got arrested. My brother was already there.

Q. When did you buy the tickets for the previous flight you were on?

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A. The same people we bought the second tickets from.

Q. The question was when, not who.

A. Approximately two days before we were to travel.

Q. You made the reservations about the same time?

A. Yes. When we tried to travel the first time, Abu Qatada had already been under arrest for a week or ten days.

Q. Before your first departure?

A. Yes.

Q. So, it was over two weeks before you actually left?

A. Yes.

Q. You were thinking about this trip on and off for months or so, then you made your reservations and bought your ticket the week before?

A. That was only for myself. Abdullah and Jamil had already bought their tickets and had their shots. It was only I who was hesitant to travel.

[Tribunal President to Detainee:]

We did talk earlier about the other witnesses you requested and what I am going to do is still withhold the decision until I read the remainder of the evidence and if I think those witnesses or the letters (in particular from the lawyers) will have a bearing upon our decision at that time I will make a decision on those. At this time, I don't feel I have enough information to make a decision positive decision either way on the relevance of those witnesses. I will withhold that until I see the remainder of the evidence.

Tribunal member: The letter, as well?

President: And the same for the letter. If we decide after we see the rest of the evidence if it will be worthwhile, we will secure them at that time.

The Tribunal President asked the Detainee if he had any other evidence to present to this Tribunal. The Detainee stated, "I don't think so."

Q. Personal Representative do you have any other evidence to present to this Tribunal?

A. No.

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[Tribunal Reconvened to examine additional evidence and to discuss witness request.]

Tribunal President: Detainee has requested three witnesses who would testify that he supported the British Intelligence Agency. We have contacted the British government and at this time, they are not willing to provide the Tribunal with that information. The witnesses are no longer considered reasonably available, so I am going to deny the request for those three witnesses. However, Detainee requested he be allowed to submit two letters from his lawyer that contains information relevant to this case. That request was approved and I believe the Detainee's Personal Representative has those letters.

Personal Representative: [Presents Exhibits D-C through D-H to the Tribunal.] I would like to note for the Record, there are some redactions made by the Detainee.

Detainee: The black out marks on the documents were done by the Guantanamo facility, I did not make them.

Tribunal President: We didn't know where they came from. So noted.

Personal Representative: The following redactions were made on the documents: Exhibit G, paragraph 52, 54 and 70; Exhibit H, page 30 paragraph 17 and 19; Exhibit H, page 31, paragraph 19, 21, and 22; Exhibit H, page 32 paragraph 24; Exhibit H, page 14, paragraph 46.

[When asked by the Tribunal President if he wanted to make a statement, the detainee stated yes and provided his statement after electing to be sworn. The detainee testified essentially as follows]:

Detainee: First I would like to thank the Tribunal for providing me a second opportunity. After I returned to my cell, I thought of a million things I wanted to say. I didn't figure I would get a second opportunity, but I was glad when on Saturday my Personal Representative informed me I would have another opportunity. Unfortunately, that day my lawyer met with me for a second time and used a lot of my time. Sunday I was moved from Camp Echo to my present cell, and I lost a lot of time to prepare for today. Today, I met with my Personal Representative and he told me the Tribunal would be this afternoon. I hurried and wrote some things. I have only ten pages. I wanted to write more, but didn't have the time.

In regards to the British government, I have learned through this experience they will not come forward and provide the truth to something that I have claimed happened. This is a crucial point in this proceeding. That itself should have cleared my name.

I hope I can convince you I am telling the truth. I will try and limit the times I use the word important, but please realize the emphasis is there. Most of my charges are based on my friend Abu Qatada. Abu Qatada is a Jordanian citizen of Palestinian origin, from the country now known as Israel. While in Jordan, he studied Islam and became a

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preacher. He had strong views and a lot to say about the Gulf War. I believe everyone in this Tribunal room has had some involvement with that war. Several people supported Saddam Hussein despite what was known about him. (I don't like or support Saddam Hussein). People of Jordan were among those who supported Saddam. Abu Qatada told the truth about Saddam Hussein (Saddam wasn't a savior but a murderer). People turned against Abu Qatada and wanted to hurt him. Accusations were made that he was CIA or he was this and that. He left Jordan and went to Pakistan where he received his Masters Degree in Islamic studies. His views were also scrutinized in Pakistan. He taught at a University in Pakistan for about two years.

I hope this Tribunal doesn't reject the truth. Abu Qatada left Pakistan for the United Kingdom with his wife and three children. He was granted political asylum by the British government and was provided a home, money, and free medical care. I guess you can say, he was harbored and protected by the British government. I am referring here to the charge that has been made against me [The Detainee provided harbor in London, United Kingdom to a known al Qaida fugitive named Abu Qatada.]

Abu Qatada arrived in the United Kingdom in 1993. His views and opinions were the same before he arrived in Britain as they are now. He took the opportunity, to utilize the freedom Britain offered and its diverse population, to voice his views. He believed it was vital for the rich to help the poor.

Abu Qatada was arrested in October 2002, approximately nine years after he had arrived in Britain. During those nine years, he preached about Jihad and hundreds of other topics.

My relationship with MI5 (British Intelligence) ended sometime mid summer 2002. A few months had passed before Abu Qatada was arrested. During that time, I saw Abu Qatada on a regular basis. If Abu Qatada was such a danger, why wasn't he arrested before? I am positive the British Intelligence knew where he was, because I told them.

I feel it is important for this Tribunal to understand the situation and the Law in Britain that allows the British authorities to arrest anyone they believe to be a threat. I mention this because of the accusations that Abu Qatada was arrested because he was a threat. After 11 September, the British government rushed through Parliament a Bill that created the Law allowing authorities to detain indefinitely any alien who the authorities feel pose a threat.

I request the Tribunal obtain clarification of the above law. I am unable to provide the information because I don't have access to it, but I am willing to assist the Tribunal in anyway I can. A handful of people were arrested under this law, including Abu Qatada. If Abu Qatada was a British citizen, none of this would not of happened and charges would not have been brought against me. If Jamil (ISN 905) and I were British citizens, none of this would have happened. This law was challenged in Britain and the European court ruled the law discriminated against foreigners.

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After my last Tribunal, I was taken to Camp Echo. In Camp Echo, I was isolated from all Detainees. I was provided with some paperwork, which I have included as exhibits. Among the information was a letter from my lawyer. In the letter, my lawyer strongly recommended I didn't participate in the Tribunal or talk to my Personal Representative. I find it coincidental the letter reached me two days after my Tribunal when it is dated 1 September.

Tribunal President: In regards to the letter, you have my word I had no idea that letter existed.

Detainee: I believe that.

Tribunal President: I can't speak for anyone else, but the three members of this Tribunal had no idea the letter existed.

Detainee: I am glad I appeared before the Tribunal. It may have been to my disadvantage if I had received the letter and taken my lawyers advice and not have participated. This letter went to the process that was 'Reviewed by the Privilege Team Member and forwarded', meaning they went through it thoroughly. My lawyer is going to have fun with this in court and with the media.

Tribunal member to Detainee: You realize, now that you have seen the letter, even though you talked to us before, you don't have to talk to us now.

Detainee: I fully understand. I told my lawyer I believe it is to my advantage to submit my further evidence. My lawyer gave me very little advice, he just said what I told you before was good.

Tribunal President: I know we told you; you may not be compelled to testify.

Detainee: I fully understand.

Tribunal President: You testified under Oath.

Detainee: I accept full responsibility for everything I have said here. I have no problems with the information I have told you.

Tribunal member: You did tell your lawyer you spoke to us last time?

Detainee: Yes.

Tribunal member: And that you were going to speak to us again?

Detainee: Yes.

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[Detainee continued statement]

My lawyer, whose information is available, is leading the way in the fight against this law. She can provide information on what is happening in the United Kingdom. She is also Abu Qatada's lawyer.

According to my other lawyer (who is also Jamil's lawyer) Mr. Mickham, Abu Qatada has not been charged. (I am charged for things Abu Qatada had done, yet he has not been charged.) Abu Qatada is in Britain, under arrest, but hasn't been charged with anything.

Abu Qatada has not been charged or interrogated. I have been interrogated at least sixty to seventy times. Abu Qatada has not appeared in or been convicted by any court. Jamil and I are still here held by accusations revolving around Abu Qatada.

Over the years, Abu Qatada received threats; his home and car were vandalized. Because of these threats, the British authorities offered to provide him protection. He declined the offer; he didn't want to be under continuous surveillance.

I would like to explain more about my relationship with Abu Qatada. I didn't see him everyday. Excluding the time I was helping him find an apartment, I saw him once a week or once every two weeks. On some occasions, a month would pass before I would see him. (I talked about the reasons I would see him at my last Tribunal). It is well known I had similar relationships with other scholars and preachers in London. I use to accompany one such individual to Hyde Park where he voiced his opinions against Iran. This person happened to be Iranian. I hated going to Hyde Park. Pro Iranians would swear and threaten us. It was a heck of a time. I hope in the next few months Iran doesn't become an ally with the United States, because you will see me again with new charges related to that relationship.

I have several friends, not all of which are fundamentalists. I have several non-Muslim friends. (I have not influenced any of the information I have submitted to this Tribunal except for the information I have written myself.) I am here because of my fundamentalist friends and Abu Qatada. I want you to understand I have a separate life from that. I have many friends and enjoy sports and other activities. I have biker friends also.

I would like to talk about the word Jihad (this is based on a question I was asked at the last Tribunal). Jihad is not an illegal word. The word is used in many places; including the United States. The people talking about Jihad are not being arrested or brought to GTMO.

When Jihad is mentioned about Saddam or Iran, it is good. When Jihad went against India to liberate Kashmir (whose people wanted independence from India) Britain supported the people of Kashmir until the eleventh of September. There was a Jihad in Chechnya, because the Chechens wanted their Independence from Russia. The communist took Chechnya over by force. Both of these conflicts were associated with

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the word terrorism, fundamentalism, and (inaudible). The problems in those two places were brushed to the side.

Britain has many groups including Neo Nazis whose activities are worth noting. Some of these groups are evil. For instance, the IRA has used violence and bombing attacks against Britain. If Abu Qatada was such a threat to Britain, why wasn't there a single terrorist incident related to his group or any other Muslim group? I am suppose to be in the middle of all this, so if it had happened I would have been informed by Abu Qatada or British Intelligence or something. Nothing had happened up to the day I left Britain.

I am participating in this Tribunal in an effort to clear my name. My lawyer assured me regardless of the outcome of this Tribunal I would be released. When I am released, I want to be classified as a non-enemy combatant, not as an enemy combatant.

I have been presenting my charges from different angles to try and prove my innocence. After thinking about it for a long time, all I can do is talk. If I could bring you information I would, unfortunately, I don't have the access. I would like to tell you the truth about MI5. I am not surprised the British government had nothing to say about my work. That is what I expected.

My lawyer is suing the President of the United States. I submitted my court papers and other related documents here today. I hope the information contained in my files will benefit me. I didn't submit everything only what I felt was relevant to this Tribunal. My case also involves two other individuals. I didn't include my friend Jamil's information. You may examine it, if you chose.

It is very interesting that my involvement with the British Intelligence does not appear anywhere except in one place in the Affidavit (Exhibit B, page 4, paragraph 9) from my brother's statement after his release from Gambia. In Gambia, I was not in touch with my brother. After a few days we were separated and the interrogations started. As my brother left Gambia, I got a glimpse of him through a small peephole. I was taught sometimes that small things have big meanings. I am hoping this paragraph is one of those times.

My brother said in his statement, "I tried to retain my humor and dignity throughout. I was asked by the Americans, if I was working for the British Secret Service?"

This is the only time British Intelligence is mentioned in any of the files.

Tribunal member: For the record, the Detainee is referring to Exhibit D-C, page 29 of 42, paragraph 9.

Detainee: That is the only place in the whole file that mentions British Intelligence. While being arrested in Gatwick airport and in Gambia, I kept my relationship with MI5 to myself. However, after two weeks and some trickery in Gambia, I was convinced to talk about it. Two Americans and two Gambians conducted the interrogations. I told the

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Americans the British Intelligence Agency knew where Abu Qatada was long before they did. One of the Americans had asked me if I worked for MI5. I told him I didn't work for them or anyone else. I am a free man. After a few days they put us in cells that were made from our own plywood. One evening I heard Jamil shouting and banging against the cell. This made me very uncomfortable; I didn't know what to do. I was afraid if I told Jamil to calm down, he would do the opposite. I didn't want to get involved; I was very stressed. They talked to Jamil through an interpreter and then they took him somewhere and then things quieted down. After a couple of minutes, someone had knocked on my door. I was asked if I was okay. The two Americans came into my cell and told me they received information that there was one or two people here working for British Intelligence. They wanted to know if it was myself or someone else. From that point on, we talked about things.

A few days ago during my lawyers visit, I told him of my relationship with MI5 and the things that have happened. I asked him not to reveal too much of the information to the outside world. Although this information would benefit me here, it would be a great disadvantage to my family and myself on the outside.

In support of my statement, why would an American official question someone (my brother) about British Intelligence? I believe I opened this door, only after I was tricked into doing so. You can read this in my file and in the unclassified evidence in this Tribunal. It is a big mess. For this to happen, the Americans must have put a lot of illegal pressure on people. The evidence the Tribunal has should indicate this.

My interrogations will reveal that my story hasn't change. If I were lying, I wouldn't remember what I told you and my story would change. Assuming I lied about MI5, why approximately one year ago did a young man from MI5 come talk to me? He asked me a few questions about a few people here in GTMO. He asked me if I were released, where would I like to go? I mentioned a few places; I told him he could buy me a ticket to the moon. He told me after my release there was no guarantee I could return to London. This conversation should prove I had previous contact with MI5. The young man from MI5 also visited Jamil. Jamil was asked where he would like to go after his release and he also mentioned the moon. I believe these conversations were recorded and there should be a record somewhere. [REDACTED] is the person from MI5 that I have met with on the most occasions. [REDACTED] would assure me that he wasn't here to interrogate me, but to say hello. If MI5 didn't know me, why would they stop by to say hello? During his visits, he would bring me things to eat and talked about the missed opportunity. I believed then and now it was an opportunity for the good of all. I am the one that lost out. I didn't want anything out of it, but it would have benefited British society. My meetings with MI5 always took place in public.

Tribunal President to Detainee: The British government didn't say they didn't have a relationship with you, they just would not confirm or deny it. That means I only have your word what happened. Also, you said there was a big missed opportunity, would you explain what that is.

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Detainee: After 11 September, there was a lot of tension. I was a person people listened to. My aim was to form a group with respected people from society. My goal was to reduce tension and resolve world problems. I told myself if I could achieve this, it would be a worthwhile accomplishment. I am not someone who tries to make people do things they don't want to do. I am not saying I achieved anything.

Tribunal President to Detainee: I am still trying to understand the missed opportunity. The missed opportunity was getting people together to talk?

Detainee: Yes. Resolve tensions and prevent situations from escalating.

Detainee continued: Six or seven months ago I received a visit from two agents, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] from MI5.

[Detainee asked if someone was behind the window? The Tribunal President explained to the Detainee that someone was observing the Tribunal. The Detainee asked if the Tribunal was being monitored. The Tribunal President stated that it was not being monitored, just observed by someone who wanted to watch the process.]

Detainee continued: I believe from what [REDACTED] told me, [REDACTED] was the ranking individual. When they came, I wasn't shackled like now. I don't understand why I am shackled in here?

Tribunal President to Detainee: Your Personal Representative did ask if you could have your hands free. You are classified as an enemy combatant against the United States until we make a determination otherwise. I treat all enemy combatants fairly but the same. I won't allow anyone in here without the shackles. I am treating you like I treat everyone else. That was the decision I made. Not everyone is as nice as you, when we talk. For the safety of all, I treat everyone the same. I would not make an exception, even in your case.

Detainee continued: I told the MI5 agents it was nice to see them, because I thought my visitors were going to be Americans. We talked about business. I met with them once or twice more on the same visit. The issues I mentioned during my interrogations are things I don't talk about in public. These are issues no one knows about.

Tribunal President: Nor will they learn it from us.

Detainee: There is a strong trust between my friend Jamil and I. In London, I would assure him it was okay to help me. Jamil doesn't know anything about my work with MI5, nor does he need to.

As I was saying, I met with them once or twice on the same visit. I asked them whom were they coming to see? They told me they were here just to see me. We met on the next day and they told me they had asked the Americans to see one other British person.

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I had at least four meetings with the British Intelligence in this facility. It was not suitable then or now to tell the interrogators the whole story about MI5.

The British government told me they couldn't help me, because I am not British. I just want to reiterate I am not lying to you, what I have told you are the facts. I hope if you have any doubts, you can check them out. If I had lied then I am an enemy combatant. But if I have told the truth, please take that into consideration.

As you know, we were taken from Gambia to Kabul and then to Bagram Airbase. In Bagram, I provided information only after I was subjected to sleep deprivation, and various threats were made against me. I would like to state for the record, documents and letters from my lawyer, including those introduced today, were deliberately withheld from me until after the Tribunal, which was rushed.

[Detainee requested a copy of the unclassified summary (Exhibit R-1), so he could refer to it during his statement.]

[With regards to paragraph 3.a.3, (Abu Qatada has strong links to senior al Qaida operatives and facilitated the travel of individuals to an al Qaida guesthouse in Pakistan.)]

Detainee: If anyone planned to travel to Pakistan, I don't believe they would have told me about it. The people in GTMO are from many different countries. I can't believe Abu Qatada is an inspiration for all of them. Only a handful of people from the United Kingdom were brought to GTMO. Most of the people did not live in London. Abu Qatada is from London and he rarely left the city. No one is here because of Abu Qatada. There are people in GTMO that left the West, before 11 September, with their families for a new life in Afghanistan or Pakistan. I don't fully understand why they did it, and I am not convinced it was the right thing for them to do.

For the record I overheard someone, from my cellblock, say that he had moved his family from Britain before 11 September. I had learned he had prayed a few times with Abu Qatada. I don't believe there is anyway he would have left with his family, if he knew what was going to happen. If you want to fight Americans, you don't take your wife and children with you.

On more than one occasion, after MI5 questioned me, I would go out to the community to find the answers. On three or four separate occasions, the questions involved Abu Qatada (that was during the time I was supposedly harboring him). MI5 wanted to know about 11 September and what Abu Qatada thought about it. I had asked Abu Qatada his thoughts. He told me what had happened on 11 September was bad for the Islamic community because it would create problems and further alienate us. He concern was not because he liked the United States, but because of the reality of the world we live in, and what is good for him and his community. Abu Qatada always took responsibility for his actions. These are the qualities that I admired about Abu Qatada. I have not seen those qualities in anyone else.

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The next point is regarding the transfer of funds. The money was sent from London to Jordon. My mother is Jordanian and her mother lives there. My mother spends half of the year in Jordan taking care of her mother and the other time in London with me. If something suspicious happened I would think Intelligence would have questioned them about it. Nothing indicated to me, the transfer of the money was illegal, suspicious, or the threat to any country. The money was sent between two countries. The Jordanian authorities never questioned my mother about this and when I was arrested at Gatwick airport, no one questioned me about the money. I was interrogated for about eight hours, during which time I opted not to have a lawyer present since I had nothing to hide. Yet, after two years this allegation is brought up in the Tribunal. I sincerely hope what I am saying is clear. There is nothing to this allegation. I wonder, is the reason I am here because of these charges? Or, are these the things they decided to charge me with after they questioned me? This is the information I provided to them. Was this a formulated excuse after two years?

To collect the money after prayer, someone would shake (it encourages people to donate) the bucket. On occasion, when I was asked to collect the money, I enjoyed it. The money helped pay for the use of the hall, photocopies, parties, and presents for children. Our expenses were the same as any other community. Approximately four years ago a Jordanian traveled from Jordon to London for cancer treatment. An acquaintance of mine gave this individual my phone number. I was asked if I could help him, and I did all that I could. I would take him to his appointments and pay for his expenses out of my own pocket. I mentioned this individual's situation to Abu Qatada, and he arranged through his charity to pay the hospital expenses (about \$40,000.00). The expenses were a little more than what the charity covered and Abu Qatada made up the difference. This was the Abu Qatada I knew. MI5 mentioned Abu Qatada had received money from different sources. I don't know nor was I involved in that.

I offered to help those I have known and those I don't. If I noticed someone stranded on the highway, I would stop and offer my assistance. Two days before my trip to Gambia, I helped my elderly neighbors trim some trees on their property.

The papers I introduced to the Tribunal talked about my brother's business in Gambia. My brother spoke to the authorities in Gambia and registered his company. Everything he did was legal; he had the proper documentation. If the Tribunal has any questions about my brother's business, especially regarding the finances, I am certain my family can provide that information.

If we had intended to do harm in Gambia, then it was unwise for the Gambian authorities to let two members (Omar and my brother) of the group go. If the idea was raised we went their to do harm, then why didn't they detained us and take us to court in Gambia?

I have never heard Abu Qatada encourage anyone to go to Pakistan or Afghanistan. His opinion at the time was that the Jihad between the Taliban and the Northern Alliance was between two Afghani groups, why should Arabs get involved? In terms of a religious explanation, when war is between two Muslim fascists it is not obligatory for a third

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party to get involved. Others and I had hoped something good would have resulted from Afghanistan and the government. We somehow knew the situation was a failed venture.

I mentioned the word harbor to my lawyer. I truly don't believe I harbored Abu Qatada. If Abu Qatada had ties to al Qaida, I was unaware of it.

I would like to raise some questions. I don't think these questions will help my case but I hope things will be looked at in a better way. What groups of people have the right of freedom over others? What are the principles we should have in deciding these matters? Russia, after the fall of the Soviet Union, gave several states their independence. Georgia was among them. Chechnya, which is next to Georgia, didn't get its independence from Russia. They fought for it and people died, yet they didn't get their independence. I wonder why? There were many promises made. Why is it we can say this war is legitimate, and this war isn't? I wonder how many faces in today's Russian politics are the same faces we saw from the time of the Soviet Union? These people were evil because of the things they did. However, once the Soviet Union collapsed, Putin whose job was head of the Secret Service became their President. He is the one who is respected and whose opinion counts. What has changed these individuals? Maybe it was a miraculous transformation? Maybe they have become Saints, or maybe they are the same people as before? Why is it when an Island like East Seymour wanted its independence, they received it in a year? Thousands of people were butchered, yet Putin turned a blind eye to it. Why didn't the Palestinians want dignity in the land of their fathers and ancestors where they were fired upon and killed? To be fair, they did cast the first stones. Why is it some people get freedom and others don't? Why is it when some people want to fight for their freedom, they are labeled as terrorists? Why is it America fought for its freedom? Why is it America tells some people they cannot fight for their freedom? America paid a very high price for its freedom. Freedom is the highest thing one can achieve in this world.

Again for the record, things I have said here are relevant to the case of my friend Jamil (905). One of the accusations against him was that he took Abu Qatadas family to Abu Qatada. Jamil did that because I had asked him to. I assured him it was okay based on what I thought I knew at the time.

Another of his accusations regarded a battery charger. This was the battery charger that I mentioned the last time we met. The battery charger belonged to me. I modified it, and I take full responsibility for it.

I hope and pray what I have told you will help clear Jamil and me. Thank you very much.

Tribunal President to Detainee: I would like to address your two new witness requests: one is that we get a statement from your lawyer concerning laws by which Abu Qatada was arrested. That is not relevant to this Tribunal, so that is denied. The second request was to get statements from the officials in Gambia. We are not going to do that for this Tribunal.

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Detainee: With regards to the statement "Abu Qatada is a known al Qaida operative who was arrested in the United Kingdom and is a danger to national security." I feel it is important to the Tribunal to understand why he was arrested. I feel it is extremely important you have an understanding regarding his arrest.

Tribunal President: I won't ask for that information from your lawyer, I have asked for that information through other channels. I was curious about that and I do believe we have some additional information. That was requested and I should have told you that. I understand your concerns.

Detainee: That is fine, thank you.

AUTHENTICATION

I certify the material contained in this transcript is a true and accurate summary of the testimony given during the proceedings.



Tribunal President

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