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ACTION SCT-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	A-00	CCO-00	CG-00	CIAE-00
	COME-00	CTME-00	INL-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00
	EAP-00	EB-00	EUR-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	VC-00	H-00
	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00	L-00	CAC-00	VCE-00	M-00
	AC-00	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-00	NIMA-00	PA-00
	TFBI-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	FMPC-00	SP-00
	SSO-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-00	PMB-00
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 COPENHAGEN 001033

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/07/2014
TAGS: PTER, PHUM, PREL, DA
SUBJECT: FORMER GUANTANAMO DETAINEE PUBLISHES BOOK/ALLEGES
MISTREATMENT

CLASSIFIED BY: COUNSELOR FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
BLAIR HALL, REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D)

1. (C) SUMMARY. THE RELEASE OF SLIMANE HADJ ABDERRAHMANE'S BIOGRAPHY HAS GENERATED RENEWED MEDIA ATTENTION IN THE FORMER DANISH GUANTANAMO DETAINEE'S CASE, BUT THE POLITICAL FALLOUT REMAINS RELATIVELY CONTAINED SO FAR. WHILE ABDERRAHMANE CONTINUES TO AVOID PUBLIC APPEARANCES SINCE HIS FEBRUARY 24 RETURN TO DENMARK, THE LOCAL MEDIA HAS GIVEN THE MISTREATMENT ALLEGATIONS IN HIS MEMOIR PROMINENT PLAY, AS WELL AS HIS STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF JIHAD. IN RESPONSE TO OPPOSITION POLITICIANS' EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN, DANISH OFFICIALS NOTE THAT ABDERRAHMANE HAD NOT MADE MISTREATMENT ALLEGATIONS TO THEM PRIOR TO THE BOOK RELEASE AND DECLINED OFFERS OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE UPON HIS RETURN. END SUMMARY.

THE BOOK

2. (U) TWO DANISH JOURNALISTS HAVE WRITTEN A BIOGRAPHY OF

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 1

SLIMANE HADJ ABDERRAHMANE BASED ON 50 HOURS OF TAPED INTERVIEWS WITH THE FORMER GUANTANAMO DETAINEE THE JOURNALISTS AND PUBLISHER RELEASED MATERIAL FROM THE BOOK TO THE DANISH MEDIA ON JUNE 6 IN ANTICIPATION OF A JUNE 8 BOOK LAUNCHING. ABDERRAHMANE HIMSELF HAS NOT APPEARED IN PUBLIC IN CONNECTION WITH THE BOOK. HE IS NOT REPORTEDLY SLATED TO MAKE PERSONAL APPEARANCES TO PROMOTE THE BOOK "DANISH PRISONER AT GUANTANAMO: A PERSONAL ACCOUNT." DANISH TV AND RADIO HAVE PLAYED SHORT EXCERPTS OF ABDERRAHMANE SPEAKING ON HIS BIOGRAPHERS' AUDIOTAPES.

 MISTREATMENT ACCUSATIONS

3. (U) ACCORDING TO MEDIA REPORTS ABDERRAHMANE CLAIMS HE WAS "BEATEN AND HUMILIATED" BY AMERICAN TROOPS IN A PRISON AT KANDAHAR AIRPORT WHERE HE WAS DETAINED BEFORE BEING TRANSFERRED TO GUANTANAMO. SPECIFICALLY, HE ASSERTS THAT ON ONE OCCASION WHEN HE WAS HOODED, HE AND OTHER PRISONERS WERE BEATEN AND KICKED BY AMERICAN SOLDIERS. PRIOR TO BEING SENT TO GUANTANAMO, HE CLAIMS SIX TO EIGHT U.S. SOLDIERS MOCKED AND PHOTOGRAPHED HIM IN A MILITARY TENT AT A TIME WHEN HE WAS MANACLED AND NAKED. ABDERRAHMANE COMPLAINS THAT THE MILITARY BARBER WHO CUT HIS HAIR AND SHAVED HIS BEARD STRUCK HIM ON THE HEAD WITH THE ELECTRIC RAZOR AFTER IT JAMMED.

4. (U) ABDERRAHMANE IS LESS CRITICAL OF HIS TREATMENT AT GUANTANAMO, ALTHOUGH HE RELATES THAT HE AND OTHER PRISONERS UPON ARRIVAL WERE MADE TO SIT STILL WITH THEIR HEADS DOWN FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME AND STRUCK IF THEY MOVED. ABDERRAHMANE PROFESSES UNDERSTANDING THAT THE DIFFICULTY OF GATHERING EVIDENCE IN AFGHANISTAN LENGTHENED THE NECESSARY DETENTION TIME FOR HIM AND OTHER PRISONERS, BUT IS CRITICAL OF THE ORIGINAL DETENTION FACILITIES AT GUANTANAMO, WHICH HE LIKENS "LESS SPACE THAN THAT ALLOTTED TO BIRDS AT A ZOO."

5. (SBU) DANISH OFFICIALS TOLD THE MEDIA JUNE 6 THAT ABDERRAHMANE HAD NOT MADE ACCUSATIONS OF MISTREATMENT TO THEM DURING INTERVIEWS AT GUANTANAMO OR SINCE THE FORMER DETAINEE'S RETURN TO COPENHAGEN ON FEBRUARY 24. THEY ALSO HAVE NOTED THAT ABDERRAHMANE, AFTER RETURNING TO DENMARK, SAID HE HAD BEEN TREATED "OK" AND DECLINED THE DANISH GOVERNMENT'S OFFER OF ANY FOLLOW-UP MEDICAL TREATMENT.

MAKING A DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE AFOREMENTIONED INCIDENTS AND TORTURE, ABDERRAHMANE REPORTEDLY TOLD HIS BIOGRAPHERS THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN SUBJECTED TO TORTURE. ACCORDING TO HIS COMMENTS TO HIS BIOGRAPHERS, THE FORMER DETAINEE DOES NOT FAULT THE DANISH GOVERNMENT FOR ITS HANDLING OF HIS CASE.

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 2004COPENH01033

Page: 3

Channel: n/a

POLITICAL REACTION

6. (SBU) ABDERRAHMANE'S ACCUSATIONS HAVE PROMPTED NEW QUESTIONS FROM OPPOSITION PARLIAMENTARIANS. THE FAR LEFT UNITY LIST HAS CALLED FOR A MEETING OF THE FOREIGN POLICY COMMITTEE TO REVIEW -- AGAIN -- WHETHER THE FOREIGN MINISTRY INFORMED PARLIAMENT FULLY. SPOKESMEN FOR THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAVE NOTED THAT ABDERRAHMANE'S ASSERTION THAT HE WAS FIRST DETAINED IN PAKISTAN IS INCONSISTENT WITH DANISH MFA INFORMATION THAT HE WAS "CAUGHT WHILE ENGAGED IN MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN AFGHANISTAN" AND HAVE FAULTED THE DANISH GOVERNMENT FOR NOT SEEKING MORE INFORMATION FROM THE DETAINEE ABOUT HIS TREATMENT. DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER RELEASED A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS NOTING THAT "AT ANY SPECIFIC TIME, I HAVE ANSWERED THE FOLKETING AND BRIEFED THE FOREIGN POLICY COMMITTEE IN ACCORDANCE WITH MY KNOWLEDGE AT THAT TIME."

COPENHAGEN 00001033 002 OF 002

POLITICIANS ARE LIKELY

TO BE BOTH MINDFUL AND WARY OF ABDERRAHMANE'S POLITICAL MOTIVATION. ABDERRAHMANE IS REPORTED TO HAVE STATED "IF MOSLEMS ARE ATTACKED AND INVADED, ACCORDING TO ISLAM, WE HAVE TO DEFEND OURSELVES, OUR FAMILIES, PROPERTY, LAND AND FAITH. SUCH IS THE JIHAD." HE ALSO SAYS HE DID NOT FEAR THAT HE WOULD BE EXECUTED, BUT WAS CONFIDENT THAT IF HE HAD BEEN KILLED, HE WOULD HAVE BEEN "REWARDED IN PARADISE." ACCORDING TO HIS BIOGRAPHERS, THE FORMER DETAINEE WAS SPURRED BY MEDIA COVERAGE OF RUSSIAN ATTACKS IN CHECHNYA TO TRAVEL TO AFGHANISTAN TO RECEIVE MILITARY TRAINING TO FIGHT AGAINST SOLDIERS (BUT NOT CIVILIANS, ACCORDING TO THE BIOGRAPHERS' ACCOUNT).
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Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 3