

# Exhibit A

**FOUO****QUANTANAMO BAY****I, AMI AL HAJI, hereby state as follows:**

I am familiar with the American legal concept of 'next friend' and I wish to act as next friend for the following prisoner who is being held here in Guantanamo Bay. The Department of Defense's Enemy Combatant Notice (ECN) that was distributed to detainees expressly stated that a detainee could have a "family member or friend" file a habeas petition on the detainee's behalf.

Many months ago, I signed a next friend petition for Abd al Zahar, who is from Azerbaijan. I believe that Abd al Zahar is also known by the authorities here at the prison by name Poulad T. Tahirzade.

My wife is from Azerbaijan and I am familiar with the country. To my knowledge, Abd al Zahar is the only Azerbaijani being held on this base, and it cannot be hard for the authorities to identify him. I am troubled by the fact that he has now been held at this prison for five years without access to legal counsel (he came here in the early days of the prison's existence). He is not familiar with the legal system of the U.S., which makes it difficult for him to assert his legal rights himself without assistance and explanation. It is hardly likely that a lawyer could travel all the way to Azerbaijan to meet with his family, even if a lawyer could find his family among the millions of people there without being allowed to speak with Abd al Zahar himself.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on the 15 day of December, 2006.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SAMI AL HAJI**FOUO**