

SUBSEQUENT PAROLE CONSIDERATION HEARING

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

BOARD OF PAROLE HEARINGS

In the matter of the Life) CDC Number: C-88440
Term Parole Consideration)
Hearing of:)
)
HARRY SASSOUNIAN)
_____)

SAN QUENTIN STATE PRISON

SAN QUENTIN, CALIFORNIA

DECEMBER 27, 2019

08:32 A.M.

PANEL PRESENT:

DIANNE DOBBS, Presiding Commissioner
EDWARD TAYLOR, Deputy Commissioner

OTHERS PRESENT:

HARRY SASSOUNIAN, Inmate
SUSAN JORDAN, Attorney for Inmate
ANN INGALLS, Deputy District Attorney
CORRECTIONAL OFFICER(S), Unidentified

CORRECTIONS TO THE DECISION HAVE BEEN MADE

_____ No See Review of Hearing
_____ Yes Transcript Memorandum

HANNAH AVERETTE, Transcriber, DE

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** On the record.

3 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** We're on the
4 record. Today's date is December 27th, 2019. The time
5 is now 8:32 AM and we're located at San Quentin State
6 Prison. This is a sixth subsequent parole suitability
7 hearing for inmate Harry, is it Sassounian?

8 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yes.

9 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Sassounian, who
10 was present in the BPH hearing room. Mr. Sassounian,
11 you committed your controlling offense while under the
12 age of 26 and so this panel will be giving great weight
13 to the youth offender factors in deciding your
14 suitability for parole today. This hearing is being
15 audio recorded. So for purposes of voice
16 identification, we're each asked to state our first name
17 and our last name, spelling our last name. And when we
18 get to you sir, please also give us your CDCR number.
19 I'll go first. We'll go to my left around the table.
20 My name is Dianne Dobbs, D-O-B-B-S, Commissioner.

21 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Edward Taylor, T-A-
22 Y-L-O-R, Deputy Commissioner.

23 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INGALLS:** Ann Ingalls,
24 I-N-G-A-L-L-S, DA from Los Angeles.

25 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Susan Jordan. Last name is

1 spelled J-O-R-D-A-N, attorney for Mr. Sassounian.

2 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Harry Sassounian, last name,
3 S-A-S-S-O-U-N-I-A-N, C number is C88440.

4 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Thank you. We
5 also have a correctional officer present. He's here for
6 security. All right, so Mr. Sassounian, it's important
7 for you to know that we're not here to reconsider the
8 findings of the trial or the appellate court in this
9 case, nor are we here to retry your case. This panel
10 accepts as true the findings of the courts. The purpose
11 of today's hearing is for us to find out who you are now
12 and whether or not you would pose an unreasonable risk
13 to the public safety if you are released.

14 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Thank you.

15 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** To do that, we're
16 going to look at many things. We will look at your
17 prior criminal record. We will look at your behavior in
18 prison, your programs that you have taken in prison. We
19 will look at your parole plans and we will pay close
20 attention to your testimony during this hearing. After
21 both of us have had a chance to ask you some questions,
22 then the attorneys will have an opportunity to ask some
23 clarifying questions after which they'll do their
24 closing statements. This is a subsequent sixth hearing
25 and so we -- it's our intention to limit closing

1 arguments to 10 minutes today. Hope that's okay with
2 both of you.

3 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** I'll do my best, ma'am.

4 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** That's the plan
5 today.

6 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** I tend to be a little long
7 winded at times.

8 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Well, trust me.
9 I'll give you a one minute warning.

10 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Thank you.

11 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** All right. Um,
12 and then after they're finished sir, if you want to give
13 a closing statement, you'll have a chance as well.

14 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Thank you.

15 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** You have -- you
16 don't have a limit.

17 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** I'll make it short.

18 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** All right. During
19 this hearing this hearing, it is our expectation of
20 course, that we will all treat each other with respect.
21 Um, as we go through the hearing, sir, I want to
22 strongly encourage you to be completely open and honest
23 with this panel.

24 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** I will.

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Even if that means

1 you have to change an answer that you had given in the
2 past.

3 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Okay. I will.

4 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** It's fine as long
5 as what we get is the whole truth and nothing but the
6 truth.

7 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Thank you.

8 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Okay.

9 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Thank you.

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** So let me swear
11 you in. Please raise your right hand. Do you solemnly
12 swear or affirm that the testimony you give at this
13 hearing will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing
14 but the truth?

15 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** I do.

16 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Thank you, sir.

17 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Thank you.

18 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** All right, so the
19 records show that you were born January 1st, 1963. That
20 you were 19 at the time of this crime. You're now 56,
21 almost 57, right?

22 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yes. Yes.

23 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** And you have been
24 at CDCR for 35 years?

25 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yes.

1 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Okay. All right.
2 So we do need to do a review under the Americans with
3 Disabilities Act. Our records show that you require
4 reading glasses. Do you have those?

5 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yes.

6 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** I see them. Okay.
7 We do have a magnifier. Do we have that magnifier? We
8 have -- we have a magnifier. That's okay. We have a
9 magnifier as well in case you need additional
10 assistance. I see that you did earn your GED and that
11 you have never been a part of the mental health services
12 at CDCR, right.

13 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** That's true.

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Are you on any
15 medications today that make it hard for you to
16 concentrate or pay attention?

17 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** No.

18 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** All right. Ms.
19 Jordan, do you believe any further accommodations would
20 be needed for today?

21 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** No, none would be needed.

22 Thank you, Commissioners.

23 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** All right. Okay,
24 so some preliminaries that we need to do before we get
25 started. We will note that, uh, there were some

1 additional documents added to the 10 day. Let me just
2 pull that up so that I can -- okay. I'm just -- I'm
3 actually going from email. I'm not sure if these
4 actually made it, but I do have the -- your objection
5 letter.

6 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Okay.

7 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Ms. Jordan. Um,
8 and we also have noticed that a letter from Mr. Reager
9 was originally added to the 10 day but then removed. So
10 this panel will not be considering that letter from Mr.
11 Reager as part of our proceedings today. Um,
12 additionally, let's see what else we have. I'm looking
13 at the 10 day and --

14 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Should be a total of 141 pages
15 -- or 149. Excuse me.

16 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** I know that also,
17 uh, there's a certified -- a certificate of translation.
18 Um, that document is about 23 pages long. Did you
19 receive that, Ms. Ingalls?

20 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INGALLS:** Yes, I have
21 that.

22 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Okay.

23 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INGALLS:** That was in
24 the original 131 page.

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** All right, let's

1 go off record for a minute please.

2 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Off the record.

3 **R E C E S S**

4 --oOo--

5 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Back on.

6 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** On the record.

7 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** All right, we're
8 back on the record. Um, I've pulled up the updated 10
9 day file and, um, so we're in the process of making sure
10 that we all have all the relevant documents. So added
11 to the file, it looks as though there is a document
12 written in Armenian that includes pictures. Um, it's
13 from an -- I'll spell it, Y-E-R-K-I-R.A-M. That
14 document was added to the file and Ms. Ingalls indicated
15 that she does in fact have that. Additionally, there is
16 a declaration that was added to the file from, uh,
17 Casper Jivalagian, J-I-V as in Victor, A-L-A-G-I-A-N.
18 That has been added to the file. Do you have that one,
19 Ms. Ingalls?

20 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INGALLS:** Yes, I do.
21 Thank you.

22 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** All right. And
23 then the next document is your objection, Ms. Jordan.

24 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Right. That proceeds the
25 attachment containing the declaration and the printout

1 of that website, which was the pictures you were
2 referring to.

3 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** And then the next
4 document we see is a July 2nd, 2013 letter to Ms.
5 Schaffer from, um, Harry Patrick Nelson.

6 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Right. That's part of our
7 submission. Yeah. From there up, um, is -- is part of
8 our submission to the Board. Yeah.

9 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** All right. So
10 that's added. And then additionally, there's the Grace
11 Family Church document. Was all of that as part of your
12 package as well?

13 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** No, that's my package.

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** No, I'm talking
15 about --

16 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Oh, I'm sorry.

17 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Did you receive
18 that in your 10 day?

19 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INGALLS:** Uh, the first
20 and the second 10 day package. Yes.

21 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Okay. So it
22 sounds like you may have everything.

23 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INGALLS:** My objection
24 is that, uh, when I went online to do the 10 day, it was
25 originally 131 pages within the 10 days, then another 20

1 pages were added. Uh, and clearly it has changed even
2 as recently as yesterday, although I was not able to get
3 online.

4 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Yeah. Yesterday
5 was just a removal.

6 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INGALLS:** So the 20
7 pages were dropped Christmas Eve at four o'clock, just
8 randomly I had gone online to make sure I could put
9 everything on my computer and noticed the difference.
10 It seems a little irregular to me that with this
11 procedure not really falling within the idea of a 10 day
12 package. So my objection is that.

13 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** May I be heard, Commissioner?

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Yes.

15 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** So what, uh, the district
16 attorney, Ms. Ingalls is referring to was the inclusion
17 of my, uh, letter objections in the attachment, which
18 was included on, uh, on the 24th. Uh, we are as, um,
19 the inmate and counsel are allowed by the Board to
20 submit additional documents up to the day of the
21 hearing. So everything that we submitted met the 10 day
22 deadline and that was everything up to page 131. So the
23 Board had authorized for the addition of pages 132
24 through the conclusion of that, um, file 149 which were
25 my objections and we have documents that we're

1 submitting today. So the strict cutoff date of the 10
2 day, you know, allows us to submit documents within the
3 10 day deadline, which is what I did. And we are also
4 allowed to provide additional documents the day of the
5 hearing, uh, which we did today. Um, Ms. Ingalls
6 actually had the benefit of receiving those objections
7 even before the hearing. And, uh, on the 24th when it
8 was uploaded is my recollection of when I sent those
9 over to Tiffany Schultz. And as I understand it from
10 using watch -- the WatchDox system, every time a new
11 document is uploaded or revised, there is an email
12 notification that the parties receive. So it's my
13 belief that Ms. Ingalls would have received notice of
14 any amended documents, um, that had been uploaded to
15 watch docs after the 10 day deadline, which was the 13th
16 of this month.

17 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** All right. Um,
18 well I mean that is the procedure that, um, the inmate
19 can in fact submit documents even up to the day of the
20 hearing. Um, so is your objection that you want those
21 documents excluded, Ms. Ingalls?

22 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INGALLS:** Yes.

23 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** All right.

24 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INGALLS:** Or, uh, more
25 time to combat some of the allegations she makes in her

1 papers. For instance, there was an allegation or an
2 objection to some papers that were, uh, provided, um, as
3 to 2015. Uh, and she addresses that in her statement
4 regarding -- I'm referring to, let's see, I think, well,
5 uh, it's on my page 135, but it's probably 133 --

6 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Objection. This is not the
7 time for argument about the document. This is simply
8 about whether or not the document should be allowed to
9 be considered by the Board.

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** I -- I asked her
11 what her objection was to the documents.

12 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Right. Well, she's saying that
13 she didn't have time to review it, but she did have time
14 to review it because she said that she received it on
15 the 23rd or the 24th and today's the 27th.

16 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** All right. So
17 hold up, hold up one second. Let me take one thing at a
18 time.

19 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INGALLS:** Thank you.

20 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** You're telling me
21 what your objection is. What is your objection?

22 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INGALLS:** So, uh, for
23 instance, on page two of five, we're talking about --
24 counsel is talking about, uh, the January 28th, 2015,
25 uh, which republishes Mr. Sassounian's 2012 letter. Uh,

1 and they certify somebody went online and did not see it
2 any longer online. To find out if that was in fact
3 taken down and it was originally there would take time.
4 Uh, so we have not had time to address that. We have a
5 language issue and we have a country difference. Uh, so
6 that complicates the matters for us. So to say that I
7 had plenty of time to research this, we're talking about
8 Christmas day then yesterday and today. That's not
9 plenty of time. So, uh, why this is also important is
10 in light of certain regular -- irregularities, which it
11 seems like this is the time to bring it to the Board's
12 attention. Normally a representative of the Turkish
13 embassy would be here. They would get notification and
14 they submit documents. They are in a position where
15 they can monitor what's going on worldwide, uh, as far
16 as what's happening with Armenia, the media, et cetera.
17 They were not notified. Suddenly they were dropped off
18 the list of notifications for this hearing. Again, I
19 happened to speak with them December 11th or something
20 around there to say, hey, we've got a hearing coming up,
21 they had not been notified, even though they had been
22 notified many occasions the past years. And they are in
23 a position to be able to monitor what's happening in the
24 world, what's happening in different languages, way
25 beyond my expertise, my office's expertise, and with no

1 disrespect to the Board's expertise, et cetera. And
2 clearly, um, the defense actually gets help with, uh,
3 translators, et cetera, and people in Armenia. So
4 saying that we had notice because I randomly went on the
5 website on the 24th, uh, or excuse me, the 25th, uh, is
6 not really sufficient.

7 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** So the Board's
8 position on notice to these individuals is that they are
9 not really parties, um, and they don't qualify as
10 victims under the Board's, um, statutes and regulations.
11 And so in the past, the Board has provided them notice
12 through the Los Angeles County district attorney's
13 office. Um, and, uh, similarly in this case, um, they
14 provided that notice in the same manner. Um, the Board
15 as of, I believe it was yesterday was the last documents
16 I got from the Board had not received a request from
17 them to again participate in the same manner that they
18 had participated in the past. And so notice was
19 provided as it was in the past.

20 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INGALLS:** Can I add some
21 more to that, Commissioner?

22 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Sure.

23 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INGALLS:** We're not in
24 the position of notifying them. In fact, David Saltzman
25 has been notified. He's on the list and he has gotten

1 notifications of everything for years. He even actually
2 got notification that, uh, the inmates, uh, that there
3 was going to be a review to see if the, uh, hearing
4 should be advanced. He got notification this year. He
5 got notification that that advancement was denied. Then
6 another review happened. He did not get notice. He did
7 not get notice that it was going to be advanced. So up
8 until it seems to be July, 2019, he was being notified
9 as a representative of the Turkish, uh, government
10 embassy and, uh, the contact person for the victim's
11 family. So it is weird to me, unusual that suddenly
12 dropped off.

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** So here's --
14 here's what we were told. We were told that the notices
15 to him in the past have been courtesy notices. Um, and
16 he has participated in whatever way. Uh, I understand
17 that in the past, uh, someone has been here from the
18 council as an observer only. Um, in BITS or in our
19 system, they have not been able to confirm whether or
20 not he truly is the representative of the family. Um,
21 we have no confirmation of that. They have reached out
22 to the family and they have not been able to contact
23 anyone. And so based on that we cannot recognize him as
24 a representative of the family. Um, so on that basis,
25 um, he would not get the notice that victims would get.

1 And so I think that that realization after they tried
2 and they were not able to confirm that he is truly the
3 representative of the family, I believe that's probably
4 why they stopped sending official notice to him. That's
5 where we are.

6 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Commissioner, may I be heard on
7 one other matter?

8 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Yes.

9 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Um, in terms of Ms. Ingalls',
10 um, objection regarding notification to the Turkish
11 government, she mentioned that she was in touch with
12 them on December 11th and had they in fact wanted to
13 attend the hearing in the capacity that they have in the
14 past, that would have given them ample opportunity to
15 get the proper clearance, uh, and permission from the
16 Board to attend as observers. So if they really had
17 wanted to attend this hearing, knowing that they had
18 spoken to Ms. Ingalls on the 11th, that gave them proper
19 opportunity and ample time to make that happen and they
20 didn't. So I think the only thing that can be, uh,
21 interpreted from this is that they have chosen for
22 whatever reasons not to attend. In terms of, and this
23 is my -- my second issue, and this will be my final
24 issue, uh, in responding to Ms. Ingalls. In terms of
25 her objection regarding the Yerkir, Y-E-R-K-I-R.A-M

1 document and the fact that Ms. Ingalls didn't receive my
2 objections until earlier this week, that document was
3 actually part of the master packet, which we had all
4 received. It was prepared in September and we received
5 it sometime in October, I believe. I can't remember the
6 exact date, but it was sometime in October. So if she
7 needed to research that issue, she would have had plenty
8 of time to do that because that document was part of the
9 master packet. It's not part of the 10 day. It's
10 actually part of the master.

11 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INGALLS:** I'm sorry, can
12 I ask a question?

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Sure.

14 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INGALLS:** Clarifying
15 question. I'm looking at her letter of Tuesday,
16 December 24th, 2019. I'm not sure how that was, um, a
17 part of the master pack.

18 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** I'm refer -- I can answer your
19 question. I'm actually referring to that three page
20 document that I objected to that was part of the master
21 packet at page 909 through 911.

22 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** That is.

23 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Yeah. It wasn't never put in
24 the 10 day. It was -- I mean I just resubmitted page --

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Just attached it

1 to her letter.

2 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INGALLS:** All right.

3 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Yeah. Yeah. But that document
4 itself was in the master. Yeah.

5 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INGALLS:** I was
6 referring to her letter.

7 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.

8 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Okay. All right.
9 Are you finished, Ms. Jordan?

10 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** I do have one more objection.
11 It doesn't involve Ms. Ingalls. Uh --

12 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Well let me -- let
13 me clear up things with Ms. Ingalls.

14 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Okay.

15 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** She has an
16 objection on the table and I'm going to overrule the
17 objection. Um, I believe that the representatives from
18 the Turkish government had an opportunity to be here and
19 they chose not to. So, um, we will not be postponing
20 this hearing, uh, for that reason. Um, I believe that
21 was it. Right? All right. All right. Ms. Jordan?

22 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Yes. Okay. So this does --
23 this objection does in evolve the three page document
24 that we've been talking about, which is at pages 909
25 through 911 of the master packet, not the 10 day but the

1 master package just so every -- I'm clear and everybody
2 is clear. Last night I received an email from Tiffany
3 Schultz telling me that the translation of those pages
4 was, uh, provided by the Board, uh, essentially that the
5 Board had hired a translator and that certificate I
6 believe is at page -- yes, it's at page 889 and that the
7 certificate was certifying, um, the -- the -- the
8 translator that the Board had hired to translate pages
9 889 through 911. I did respond to Ms. Schultz but
10 didn't receive a subsequent response. But here's my
11 concern about this document. The Board is an impartial
12 arbiter of these proceedings. The Board is not allowed
13 to gather or provide evidence. Now it can if it wishes
14 to undertake an investigation and in that capacity the
15 Board is free to investigate matters and issues, gather
16 -- and gather evidence whether it's testimonial or
17 documentary. That was not done in this situation. So
18 the Board does not have -- the Board is basically barred
19 from -- if this document came from the Board and I'm
20 referring to the document at page 909 through 911
21 referencing the reprinting of Mr. Sassounian's 2012
22 (inaudible) letter and the Yerkir.AM website. If that
23 document was provided by the Board, that is inadmissible
24 because the Board is not here to provide evidence. Ms.
25 Ingalls is here to provide evidence. We're here to

1 provide evidence, but the Board is not here to gather
2 evidence and include it in the record. Now I can't
3 confirm where this document is from. Ms. um, Ms.
4 Schultz is not able to confirm that the Board provided
5 this document. She only claims that the Board
6 translated it, but we don't know where this document
7 came from, which calls into question the reliability of
8 this document. Additionally, Mr. Jivalagian who
9 provided a translation of that website, which I pulled
10 up and provided to the Board, um, has attested to the
11 fact that whatever was printed about Mr. Sassounian, it
12 clearly was about Mr. Sassounian and his pictures, there
13 an old picture of him, uh, that website did not contain
14 any reference to Hiaasen Vore and it certainly didn't
15 contain any reprinting of anything, anything that Mr.
16 Sassounian had -- Sassounian had rewritten or had
17 written. So we're in a situation where I'm asking the
18 Board to strike that three page document from the letter
19 -- from -- from the record, and not consider it on two
20 bases, either one on the basis that it's unreliable. We
21 have no way to identify where this document came from
22 and we have evidence that it doesn't contain the
23 information that it claims to contain. And secondly, if
24 the document did come from the Board, it's also
25 inadmissible because the Board is not -- the Board is

1 the fact finder, not -- not a party providing evidence.

2 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Okay. So I don't
3 agree with you, I'm going to overrule that objection
4 because the Board, um, has a legal department and when
5 we have documents that are, um, foreign language, the
6 Board does have the ability to have those, um, certified
7 by, um, you know, an appropriate translator so that we
8 can take advantage of the information that was provided.

9 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Right. And I agree with you on
10 that point, Ms. Dobbs. My objection is that we don't
11 know where this document came from. I am perfectly fine
12 with the fact that the Board wanted to undertake a
13 formal translation. But the question is where did this
14 document come from? We don't know the source of this
15 document. And as I said, we have -- we have a, uh, due
16 process right to know whom or what agency provided that
17 document. And it certainly would -- would be, you know,
18 improper for the Board itself to be doing research and
19 providing documents because the Board is the fact
20 finder, not the gatherer of evidence. So the issue is
21 not the translation of the documents. The issue is a
22 submission of that one particular document at pages 909
23 through 911, which there's no way to identify where it
24 came from. We can clearly identify where the other
25 documents came from because those have been in the

1 record before.

2 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INGALLS:** May I address
3 that?

4 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Yes, go ahead.

5 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INGALLS:** So those
6 documents, again, if I had had more time to get you
7 specific pages from prior hearings, those documents were
8 actually dealt with in the prior hearing in 2018 as well
9 as I believe 2016. They came to the attention of the
10 Board because they were submitted by the Turkish -- by
11 David Saltzman, the Turkish government, just as the 2012
12 and 2013 were presented to the Board, uh, because that
13 is the type of thing they monitor. Again, because it's
14 beyond my expertise certainly, uh, no offense, the
15 Board's expertise, it's an international thing. Uh,
16 plus the translation. So I did not have the time to go
17 back into the, um, into the 2016. I know we talked
18 about it in 2015 -- I mean 2018. I don't have the page
19 exactly. Uh, also as to its credibility if this is the
20 appropriate time, uh, it's interesting that the page of
21 the inmate is still on that website for that date. The
22 date is a very significant date. It's the date that he
23 was arrested for this crime. And if you look at the
24 body of what they're objecting to, uh, as it's taken
25 from the website, it talks about, um, this is the

1 anniversary of 32 or 33 years that Mr. Sassounian has
2 been in custody. Today as they -- the documents they
3 have submitted, it still has his picture. It's the same
4 date. So the -- the article is not there. I don't know
5 what that means because certainly things can be deleted
6 from a webpage. So the fact that the actual letter is
7 no longer there for a document that was from 2015
8 doesn't mean it was never there. It was submitted in, I
9 believe in 2016. The fact is that gives us actually
10 reliability is that it has the right date. It has the
11 inmate's picture in prison and the date is significant.
12 The date is not just, hey, let's talk about January
13 25th, you know, uh, what happened 33 years ago? Well,
14 just so happens that Mr. Sassounian was arrested on that
15 date. That's the date he killed the victim in this
16 case.

17 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Okay.

18 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** May I respond?

19 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Yes.

20 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Sorry that this has to keep
21 going back and forth. First of all --

22 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** We're gonna wrap
23 it up after this.

24 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** In terms of Ms. Ingalls'
25 statement that this document has been in the record, I

1 can attest to the fact that I have never seen this
2 particular three page document. The other materials I
3 have seen, and I represented Mr. Sassounian at the last
4 hearing. I've never seen this document. Um, the fact
5 that the document has the date of his arrest, referenced
6 the anniversary of his incarceration or any of these
7 factors that are included in that introduction is
8 immature. It proves nothing in terms of reliability
9 because that information can be found all over the web.
10 The picture itself can be found all over the web. All
11 you have to do is do a search and you'll find that
12 picture. In fact, you'll find that picture because
13 it's, you know, it has been disseminated on the web.
14 You know, all of this is out of the control of Mr.
15 Sassounian. The key point here is that Ms. -- Ms.
16 Ingalls is right. You know, it may have been posted as
17 this -- as this introduction claims and later deleted
18 and it may not have been. So we don't know which it is.
19 You know, we have, uh, we have no way of knowing where
20 this came from. I'm not convinced that it came from Mr.
21 Saltzman and I apologize if I'm mispronouncing his name.
22 If it came from Mr. Saltzman, it would've been
23 referenced as coming from that individual or, you know,
24 a representative of the Turkish government or whomever
25 the agency was. It's very suspicious that there is no

1 acknowledgement who is submitting this document.
2 Turkish officials have been very adamant about putting
3 their name and their letter had on everything that
4 they've submitted. So it's highly unusual that they
5 would submit a document that didn't, uh, reference their
6 -- their agency or their govern -- their -- their
7 government position. Um, so I think that the fact that
8 it contains some information about his crime, uh, his
9 picture, uh, his information that's all over the web and
10 anybody could pull this together. I could have -- I
11 could pull this together, get that information, go on
12 Wikipedia and claim that this letter was on the website.
13 So I think what we have here is basically a wash. We --
14 sure, maybe it was there, maybe it wasn't. We have no
15 way of knowing and without confirmation that it was
16 there, it's simply unreliable.

17 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** All right, so
18 here's my ruling. We -- I'm going to reserve on whether
19 or not the panel will consider that document until the
20 end of the hearing. Um, I will let you know in the
21 decision what documents we relied on and whether or not
22 we deemed it -- well, we can't rely on it if we don't
23 first find that it's relevant and reliable. So I will
24 let you know in the decision what documents we did rely
25 on, okay?

1 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Thank you. Thank you,
2 Commissioner.

3 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** All right. All
4 right. Mr. Sassounian, I'm sorry for the delay, sir.
5 But we're going to get started with this hearing.

6 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Completely understood.

7 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** And I do have just a few
8 documents to submit to the Board too when you're ready.

9 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** All right. Let's
10 do that now then.

11 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Okay. All right. Okay. I
12 have a -- and I've already provided these to the DA so -
13 - and I can explain what they are, um, once you receive
14 them or I could, if you want to hold off until you go
15 over them, I can explain what they are, however you'd
16 like to do it.

17 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Let's see. What
18 are they? Looks like the declaration we already have.

19 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Okay. No, that's a different
20 declaration. So that is a declaration attesting to the
21 efforts of Mr. Jivalagian and his law partner, Mr.
22 Thomasin to try to get Mr. Sassounian's 2019 letter to
23 Hiaasen Vore published in their magazine. Okay. Uh,
24 and they just simply didn't receive a response. The
25 next document I believe, are you looking at the article?

1 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Yes.

2 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Okay. So he wrote an op ed,
3 which was provided to the Board in the 10 day package
4 and it was published in that magazine, (inaudible).
5 It's on the very last page. You'll see it in English.
6 So if you open the newspaper itself, you'll -- you'll
7 see the actual article.

8 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Okay.

9 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Okay. And then the last item
10 is a communique between Mr. Jivalagian, and uh, I
11 believe it's called the -- it's an Armenian newspaper,
12 A-Z-G.

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** A-Z-G.

14 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Right. AZG and Mr. Jivalagian.
15 It also, um, contacted them to have that same op ed,
16 which was published in (inaudible) also published in
17 this particular magazine. But they just simply elected
18 not to publish it. Oh actually I'm sorry. No, that was
19 another -- that may have been another, yeah, that was
20 the op ed, I believe. It should clarify in there. I
21 just don't have it in front of me. Okay.

22 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** All right. We'll
23 look at those. All right. Mr. Sassounian, so your last
24 hearing was in June of 2018.

25 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yes.

1 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Right. And at
2 that time you got a three year denial. This panel has
3 read that transcript and pretty much all of the
4 documents in this file in preparation for your hearing
5 today. But I want to start off by finding out from you,
6 um, after that last hearing, what did you take away from
7 that hearing?

8 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** That, uh, that the leather
9 that I wrote to Eisenberg, uh, the Armenia's newspaper
10 that the Armenia's defense newspaper that that played a
11 major impact in that hearing that what, uh, what I did
12 that I should have thought about it better, that -- that
13 I didn't think about the consequences of that letter
14 when I wrote seven years ago in 19 -- 2012. That, uh,
15 that after hearing the Commissioner Barton, you know, go
16 in detail about it, that I realized that how important
17 that that letter was that -- that how that could have
18 had a very negative impact and -- and people could've
19 been hurt by it. As I wrote it in 2012 I didn't deeply
20 think about that act, you know, and -- and, uh, I
21 realized that, uh, you know, that how important that
22 letter was, that's more than anything else, that's what
23 I took from that hearing.

24 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** All right. And so
25 after that hearing, what was your plan?

1 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** What was my what?

2 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** To address all of
3 that. What was your plan to address the concerns?

4 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yeah, so after the hearing
5 Commissioner, I went and read the transcripts and
6 everything the Commissioner said. Then I took that what
7 I should do is write the letter, like the Commissioner
8 had suggested that I should write a letter and have the
9 -- do the exact opposite with my letter in that 2012 was
10 sort of, you know, like it was patriotic, maybe
11 nationalistic that -- that I should have thought about
12 it better and that I should be the last guy that should
13 be talking about patriotism, about nationalism and the
14 difference about security of Armenia because of my case,
15 because I'm not the normal person like everybody else
16 because of my case and because of the political nature
17 of my case, it could be completely taken out of context
18 even if I didn't say one thing. Some people could have
19 taken it that way. So after -- after Commissioner
20 Barton's statement that I thought it was time for me to
21 write a letter and do the exact opposite and preach
22 peace and -- and -- and dialogue with our neighbors
23 (inaudible) and Turkey and -- and -- and -- and let
24 everybody know that I'm completely against any kind of
25 violence, whether it's war or whether it's a violence on

1 the streets. I am completely against it. That -- that
2 my, uh, my, uh, what I want to preach is dialogue and
3 friendship and, um, peace between -- with our neighbors
4 and, uh, and -- and that's what I did with my letters.
5 I wrote a couple of letters like that besides the one to
6 the Armenia's newspaper.

7 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** So prior to the
8 hearing last year, um, did that not occur to you the
9 potential impact?

10 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Oh no. When I wrote it, it
11 didn't Commissioner and at the hearing --

12 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** That's not what she's asking
13 you. Could you repeat the question, Commissioner?

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Prior to the
15 hearing last year, did it -- did the potential impact of
16 your letter not occur to you?

17 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** I didn't think about it
18 deeply, Commissioner. And you know, I was in a denial
19 in lot of ways thinking that -- that -- that -- that
20 anybody could hurt by it because, you know, I had
21 written the letter seven years ago and -- and -- and,
22 you know, in my mind, I wasn't -- I wasn't advocating
23 violence. I wasn't advocating -- advocating anybody to
24 go hurt somebody. And, uh, you know, I just didn't
25 think about it like I should have, you know, and, uh,

1 and you know, and then I thought after Commissioner
2 Barton's that I should, you know, that I should, uh,
3 this is more serious than I thought, that I should write
4 a letter about this and -- and clear my, uh, clean my,
5 uh, uh, what, tell, you know, the reader in my letter
6 that what I really believe is that -- that I would never
7 advocate violence. And that my intention is -- is -- is
8 peace and dialogue with, uh, with our neighbors and with
9 everybody else in that matter.

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Anything else that
11 you, um, realized after that hearing?

12 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** That -- that, you know, I
13 should write other letters to the family and --

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** You said that
15 already.

16 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** And, you know, uh, start
17 thinking about, you know, instead of just focusing on
18 what I was thinking when I wrote it and after was that -
19 - that to see how others view the letter and that's what
20 I focused on and to stop being in denial and being so
21 prideful that -- that I -- that I was wrong about
22 writing it, you know, and -- and, uh, and I -- I got
23 the, you know, I, you know, Commissioner Barton had made
24 that very clear in his -- in his -- in -- in his, uh, in
25 his statements and at the end and during the

1 questioning.

2 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** So, you know,
3 writing -- I know you've written about it, I've read
4 your materials, but I kind of want to hear again, what
5 was your goal in writing the letter?

6 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** At the time Commissioner,
7 when I wrote it, I remember this was in 19 -- 2012 I
8 remember that there was Azerbaijan, the neighbor to the
9 East of Armenia kept the president, the dictator over
10 there kept talking about bombing Armenia and invading
11 Armenia and I, you know, I deeply care about Armenia and
12 I love Armenia and -- and I was concerned about their
13 security and that's why I decided that, you know, I
14 would write the letter to -- to the - to, uh, Armenian
15 newspaper, Armenia's military newspaper. You know, in
16 my mind I was lawfully think -- thinking that I was just
17 praising the -- the -- the -- the soldiers, you know,
18 telling them that, you know, I'm proud that they are 18,
19 20 year old young man who have decided to join the
20 military and protect their secure -- their security of
21 the country. That's why the state of my mind was that I
22 wasn't -- I didn't think that, you know, that I was
23 advocating violence, you know, who am I to tell a
24 nation's army what to do, you know, I was just being
25 patriotic and telling them that I was as Armenian, I was

1 proud of them for protecting their country. Then I
2 think at some place, I said, I wish I had the sense of
3 joining the army when I was 18 years old instead of
4 committing crime at 19, you knows. So my -- the state
5 of mind Commissioner was just purely defensive and then
6 the concern about Armenia security and I was not even --
7 the thought didn't even cross my -- cross my mind about
8 advocating violence and anything violent. But I didn't
9 think that time that, you know, because of the case I
10 got, because of the particular nature of my case and me
11 writing to the military in itself is completely out of
12 bounds for me, that I shouldn't have done it.

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** So prior to the
14 letters in 2012 and 13, had you written to any newspaper
15 or any organization before that date?

16 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** No, I don't believe so. No.

17 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Okay. I want to
18 talk to you a little bit about (inaudible) from about,
19 let's see, you came to the US at what age? How old were
20 you? 13?

21 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** I'm 56. Oh, when I came to
22 US I was 13 years. Yes.

23 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** All right. So you
24 came to the US at 13 and you probably settled in an area
25 of LA where there were a lot of Armenians. Right?

1 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yes.

2 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** So tell me a
3 little bit about your life after you got to the US.

4 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, I went -- I went to
5 school in, uh, I think Wilson Junior High in Pasadena.
6 Then I also worked, you know, here and there, doing a
7 little bit of this and that and there was a lot of
8 Armenians in the area, so I became friends with a lot of
9 Armenian kids my age. Then after that, I went to, uh, I
10 graduated eighth and I went to John Muir High School in
11 Pasadena. And at the same time there was Armenians, a
12 club opened in Pasadena. I went and joined Armenian
13 club.

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** The AYF?

15 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** AYF and Boy Scouts. Yes.
16 Yeah. And Boy Scouts.

17 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** So I mean I'm
18 trying to get -- I'm trying to get an understanding of
19 your life at that time.

20 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Okay.

21 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** So you joined the
22 AYF at what age?

23 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** I think I was 14.

24 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** At 14.

25 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Maybe 15. I'm not sure.

1 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** All right. And
2 what kinds of things were they doing in the AYF? Is it
3 just boys scout or are there other activities?

4 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** No, it's -- excuse me. I
5 also joined the Boy Scouts too.

6 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Okay, separate
7 from the AYF.

8 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yeah, well in the same club.
9 Yes.

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** All right. So
11 what other activities were involved with the AYF?

12 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Uh, we would just go -- go to
13 meetings. You know, like I think once every two weeks,
14 this was like AYF had like two chapters. They have like
15 a junior and a senior chapter. I think junior stopped
16 15 and the senior stopped at, uh, 16 to 21 I think, I'm
17 not sure. Then they, you know, they would just have
18 meetings. They talk a lot of about culture and history
19 of Armenia's history. Then they would do fundraising,
20 washing cars or something too, to have like a new years
21 party or somebody's birthday party like that.

22 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Okay. All right.
23 So you said that they would talk about culture and
24 history.

25 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yes.

1 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Was there talk
2 much talk about the genocide as part of this group?

3 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yeah.

4 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** All right. At any
5 time, did they ever advocate violence?

6 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** No.

7 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** No.

8 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** No.

9 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Okay. There was
10 never any talk of that?

11 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** No. These were --

12 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** How about amongst
13 your friends that were a part of the same group?

14 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** No. These was just teenage
15 children, Commissioner.

16 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** All right. And
17 that's where you met your co-defendants. Uh, let's see.
18 Mr. Salba -- Salbia.

19 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Saliba.

20 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Saliba.

21 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yes. Well, yeah, he was not,
22 as far as I remember, he was -- well, he might've been
23 AYF member the last -- last couple years. I'm talking
24 about 80, 81 maybe. You know, AYF has age limit after
25 21 you cannot be part of AYF anymore.

1 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** So you met him.
2 How old was he when you met him?

3 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** I think I was like 17 and he
4 was 19, I believe.

5 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Okay. So -- so he
6 was still a part of -- he was still able to be a part of
7 AYF.

8 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yeah. Oh, yeah, I'm kind of
9 confused. I'm kind of looking confused because I'm not
10 sure if it's --

11 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Are you asking how Mr.
12 Sassounian met Mr. Saliba?

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Yeah.

14 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Okay. That's what she's
15 asking.

16 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yeah, I met him at the club.
17 Yes.

18 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** So you met him at
19 the class. So he was a member at the club. Was he new
20 to the club?

21 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** When it opened, I think
22 everybody just joined like whole, like dozens of people
23 joined at the same time.

24 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** But you joined at
25 13, right?

1 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** I think 14 or 15. yeah.

2 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** All right. So you
3 joined at 14. So you've known him since that time,
4 since 14 or 15?

5 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** I met him there, yeah. I
6 don't know if I met them the first day or anything, but
7 I met him there, yes.

8 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** So -- so you --
9 you've known him for years before the day of the crime?

10 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** I think four years, maybe
11 three or four years before the crime, yes.

12 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** All right. So
13 three or four years, did you develop a relationship with
14 him outside of your AYF activities?

15 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yeah, like couple of years
16 after -- after we met in the -- in the -- at the club,
17 yes. And others, we became close friend, like -- like a
18 year or two before the crime.

19 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Okay. What kinds
20 of things did you -- did you do with him?

21 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Oh, we went to -- usually we
22 go to, uh, you know, the restaurant and there was this
23 place in Pasadena, Bob's Big Boy in the corner of Lake
24 and, uh, Colorado I believe. We -- lot of time we went
25 there. Other restaurants and, uh, we went, you know,

1 his sister was also a member of the club, his sister and
2 other friends. We used to go, uh, you know, dancing and
3 stuff, disco was big at the time. So we used to go the
4 nightclub, the disco and stuff.

5 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** So as part of your
6 friendship with him, did you ever talk about violence or
7 you know --

8 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Not in the beginning, but we
9 used to talk a lot of historic stuff and political
10 stuff. Yes.

11 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Okay. Now, in
12 reading the transcript from the last hearing, you, um,
13 kind of said that it is a possibility that he was
14 actually a part of justice commandos. Right?

15 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, I can't say that for
16 sure because he never told me that. If he did, I
17 wouldn't be sitting here right now because me and him,
18 when we were planning the murder of Mr. Arian, we gave
19 each other our word that this is between us and no -- we
20 won't tell nobody else. So, uh, you know, to continue
21 on the, uh, the answer, Commissioner when you know,
22 like, ah, he knew, you know, he knew things that I
23 didn't know, like, you know, later on when like how he
24 knew that, where Mr. Arian was driving from. And you
25 know, now that I think about it and also where he got

1 the guns from. But you know that -- that he knew more
2 than I did, but at the time I didn't care to ask. To
3 me, it didn't matter at the time.

4 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** So when did you
5 start reflecting on that to say, wait a minute, he did
6 know more than me? Um, when did that thinking occur?

7 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Like after the parole
8 hearings had started, you know, when -- when I started,
9 you know, when the questions came up and then I started
10 thinking about it because, you know, I never thought
11 about it and mostly because I didn't care back then as
12 during the crime or where he got the guns from, what he
13 -- how we knew where Mr. Arikan was driving. I just
14 didn't care at the time.

15 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** So similarly you -
16 - in -- in your, when I read through the record, the
17 probation officer's report and different things in the
18 file, there seem to be some indication that there was a
19 third person involved.

20 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Commissioner, if -- if you
21 know that there is a question of that phone call came
22 up, that if there is a phone call made, you know, after
23 the murder of Mr. Arikan, I drove him home. Or actually
24 we stopped in a -- in Pasadena by a -- it was an in and
25 out, in -- by on Walnut. We stopped there for a few

1 minutes, then I drove him home. I'm counting this took
2 maybe a good hour, you know, and -- and you know, I
3 don't know when the phone call was made, the, uh, you
4 know, uh, I -- that the -- the, uh, probation report, I
5 think it says sometime later, I don't know what that
6 means, you know, and I don't know if he went and made a
7 phone call or he had told somebody else about it, but I
8 know that during my time he was with me, I know he
9 didn't make no phone call and this just back then there
10 was no cell phones, so we didn't, you know, I didn't
11 drop him by a phone or he didn't use no phone until I
12 took him home. So I don't know if he made a call after
13 that or he told somebody else. I have no clue.

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** All right. But
15 you're saying that there was not a third person
16 involved?

17 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Not that I know of, no.

18 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** And you're aware
19 that there was some indications that some witnesses saw
20 you guys looking up at a roof?

21 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, I've -- I've heard the
22 testimony, yeah, but you know, I know I wasn't looking
23 at the third person because if there was a third person,
24 I wouldn't be taking part of because -- because I
25 wouldn't have trusted him anymore.

1 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** So just to make
2 sure I understand. The AYA activities -- AYF
3 activities. So it's meetings on culture and then your
4 relationship with Mr. Saliba became friendly about a
5 year or two before the crime.

6 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yeah, we got -- I mean, we
7 knew each other before that, but I would say until like
8 a year or two before we didn't, you know, we didn't --

9 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Start hanging out.

10 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yeah, we were going close
11 after that. Yes.

12 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** All right. And so
13 you continued your political discussions with him. How
14 this -- how did this all come about that you would
15 commit this -- this assassination?

16 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** We used to talk about, you
17 know, about the history of Armenia and Turks, what the
18 Turks did to the Armenian people, looting the genocide
19 and -- and during this time, yeah, this is again in like
20 1980, 81 now, you know, there -- at this time there was
21 a lot of political assassinations going on. Uh,
22 Armenians were assassinating Turkish diplomats in
23 Europe mostly because they were angry that -- that
24 Turkey -- after the genocide Turkey would deny the
25 genocide and told -- tell Armenians pretty much we don't

1 give a damn, you know, we, you know, we murder your
2 people. We -- we took your country and your property
3 and we don't care. Go to hell pretty much. And
4 Armenians were -- young Armenians were upset about this
5 and -- and they thought that -- that Turkey should step
6 up and acknowledge the genocide and -- and -- and get
7 into dialogue with the Armenian people or make peace
8 with them. But the Turkish government's policy was just
9 to deny and just deny it and -- and -- and call the --
10 the -- the -- the survivors of the genocide liars. Then
11 -- then -- then it just eventually would all go away.
12 And so the -- the Armenians, young Armenians decided to
13 take, uh, to resort to violence, give -- given up that -
14 - that, uh, that peaceful dialogue with Turkey was
15 beyond the -- it wasn't going to happen, that they just
16 didn't want to talk peace and they just wanted to get
17 away with the genocide and the whole Armenian issue.

18 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** And so you're
19 finding out about all of this how? Through the media?

20 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** From -- from mostly by mouth,
21 you know, back then I barely knew how to even read
22 Armenian, you know, so it was mostly by mouth, you know,
23 what people would say, like, did you hear what happened?
24 And it would be all of the, you know, a lot of, uh, you
25 know, mouth to mouth, uh, uh, mouth to ear, uh,

1 information.

2 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** And so then they
3 plan for you to join in this fight, my words.

4 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yeah. Yeah, yeah.

5 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Came about how?

6 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** So me, you know, me and Coco,
7 when we would kept, you know, we at the very end of
8 this, like now we're talking about like 81 and late 81
9 we started getting closer because we kind of -- we
10 sensed that I was feeling the same thing he was feeling
11 about what about the armor struggle or the political
12 assassinations. And we started talking about like, you
13 know what, you know, maybe what these guys are doing is
14 -- is you know, is not that far, far out, you know,
15 that, you know, they are not way out too far out there
16 because you know, the Turks are actually pushing this
17 issue because they're not peacefully, you know, manning
18 up and apologizing for what they did. And -- and
19 further they were given, you know, public statements
20 that Armenians are all liars. That there was no
21 genocide. And we took, you know, being, you know,
22 grandson of, uh, survivors of Armenian genocide, we took
23 that to be very insulting. And we took very deep
24 offense about that. And we, you know, as the
25 conversation went on the week by week that, uh, you

1 know, the -- that, uh, you know, I -- the -- I or him,
2 we say, you know what, I think if, you know, these men
3 are doing thing, you know, we men, and you know, why
4 shouldn't we -- shouldn't -- why shouldn't we this, you
5 know, because, you know, they -- they -- they, uh, the -
6 - if we think that what they are doing is just, then we
7 should do it too, you know, and -- and as time went on,
8 we just made the decision that -- that, you know, it's
9 okay for us, that -- that violence is what is called
10 for, because there is Turks had -- it had been 60 some
11 years that Turks just plainly refused to peacefully
12 solve the problem with Armenians.

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** So who came up
14 with the idea that Mr. Arian would be the victim of
15 this?

16 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Commissioner, it could be
17 easily mine or he -- or his.

18 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Well, how would
19 you have come up with the idea to choose Mr. Arian?

20 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, let me -- let me
21 rephrase this. As we were talking about, uh, you know,
22 resorting to violence, we were talking about, uh, going
23 to Europe to do -- to kill a Turkish official over
24 there. And, uh, as we were discussing this, talking
25 this, you know, like few weeks later or whatever it was,

1 you know, Coco came up and said that there was an
2 article, he a small article with him where Mr. Arian
3 had given some kind of a press conference somewhere or a
4 speech somewhere. And in the speech said, that he had
5 said that the whole Armenians were bunch of liars, that
6 there was no genocide and -- and, you know, that all the
7 survivors were liars and -- and well, after hearing
8 that, we kind of looked at each other and we like, why
9 are we thinking about going to Europe to kill a Turkish
10 officer over there while, Mr. Arian, you know, he's a
11 Turkish official and he's doing exactly the same thing
12 here in LA, meaning in LA than the Turkish diplomats
13 were doing in Europe. So, you know, so we, you know, we
14 thought it was, you know, just do it in LA instead of
15 going elsewhere to look. We didn't even know we were
16 going, you know, to be honest.

17 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** All right. So you
18 decided we'll just making the target.

19 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yes.

20 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Right here at
21 home.

22 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yes.

23 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** And so how did it
24 progress from there?

25 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** So as we -- once we decided

1 to do that, we was against, I don't know how many -- how
2 much time later, it could've been couple of weeks or a
3 month later, uh, Coco came up and he said that he --
4 that Mr. Arikan was good driving on Wilshire and -- and
5 he was crossing the Wilshire and Sunset, I think
6 Boulevard. He was crossing it. So now the problem
7 became like, we didn't know how far he was driving to
8 get to that point. So we -- we decided to go down there
9 to that area and -- and -- and for me to step, you know,
10 uh, from the direction he was coming for me to, you
11 know, to go there, you know, few blocks that way and --
12 and just wait, see if he was coming from that, which
13 street he would turn from to -- to turn on -- on
14 Wilshire. So -- so he -- he went to one, I don't know
15 the street name, like it was a major Boulevard and
16 again, I don't know whether it was East, West, whatever.
17 Then then I took another street corner that was closest
18 to, uh, Sunset and -- and Wilshire. Then we decided
19 just to wait and see if he would come -- come by those -
20 - those streets. And -- and I think I was waited for
21 about half an hour a couple of times. I was getting
22 frustrated because I was very nervous and very impatient
23 as a 19 year old. So I was thinking about leaving and
24 you know, to go like about half a mile down the road to
25 see if he had seen anything. As I was about to leave, I

1 would just wait like a couple moments. And then I saw
2 Mr. Arikan, uh, come drive -- come by the Comstock --
3 Comstock and he made a right turn on Wilshire.

4 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** And so where was
5 your -- where was Coco at this time?

6 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** He had went to the other
7 street corner, like a half a mile down Wilshire.

8 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** So he was half a
9 mile away when you saw Mr. Arikan turn?

10 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yeah. From the street Mr.
11 Arikan came. Yes.

12 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** So I thought I
13 read that both of you shot at the same time?

14 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** No, no. This is not the day
15 of the killing.

16 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Okay.

17 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** This is -- this is when we
18 found him.

19 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Before. Okay.
20 All right. So you're just kind of looking for his
21 pattern at this time?

22 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yeah, we were just trying to
23 find out where he was coming from, you know, and, uh --

24 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Okay. And that
25 was what, how long before the actual day of the crime

1 was this?

2 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Commissioner, you know, I
3 thought about that a lot. It was either the day before
4 or what one day before that, it was like a day or two
5 before we -- before the murder.

6 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** All right. And so
7 on the day of the crime then what was the arrangement?

8 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** So we decided, you know, that
9 how are we going to carry out the murder, you know, and
10 -- and we, you know, and -- and the -- oh, by the way,
11 we got the guns like that the same day or the next day.
12 I think that, so it must have been two days later,
13 because the next day he got the guns and I asked him
14 like, uh, how much did you pay for it? And he said,
15 don't worry about that. I said, well, you know, I don't
16 want you to pay for the whole thing. I want to give you
17 the half the money. He said, don't worry about it, you
18 know, so -- so the -- so we decided, you know, that, uh,
19 that when we saw -- I saw Mr. Arikan, he was by himself,
20 driving by himself. So -- so we decided how are we
21 going to do this? And I decided that I would stand on
22 the corner where he would drive from on the side where
23 he's driving. Then when he came by that I would step
24 into the street, like I was crossing the street, then --
25 then I would start shooting and Coco was on the other

1 side of the street. That he would come cross the street
2 halfway, which would make him right on the driver's
3 side. And then he would shoot Mr. Arikan like that --
4 in that way.

5 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** So after the
6 shooting, how far did you walk to your car?

7 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Uh, I would say 30 to 40
8 yards, something like that.

9 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Okay, so you're
10 parked close by?

11 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yes.

12 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** And you get in
13 your car and I think you said earlier that you dropped
14 him off.

15 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yeah, yeah. After the --
16 yeah, after the --

17 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** To the in and out.

18 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yeah. We want, drove from,
19 you know, to Pasadena. We'd stopped at in and out and
20 we didn't eat nothing. We just parked there because we
21 used to go to that in and out a few times and we just --
22 you know, I just drove there and I parked it. There is
23 also a pizza place right next to it and I just parked it
24 in a parking lot and we talked for like, I don't know, a
25 few minutes then --

1 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** So what was the
2 discussion?

3 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Not that we would just talk
4 about, you know, how we felt about it and -- and what
5 the -- what he was thinking about it before and during
6 the killing and what I was thinking about. And --

7 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** So what was the
8 discussion?

9 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** So --

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** What were you guys
11 saying?

12 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** That we -- well, we were both
13 happy that we did that. That we didn't feel no remorse
14 at the time for doing what we did because we felt at the
15 time that the Turkish government had discounted because
16 they didn't give us -- they didn't give the Armenian
17 people no chance for peaceful dialogue and that they --
18 they were at fault for resorting us to violence. That's
19 how we felt. And that's what we were talking about.

20 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Okay. All right.
21 You dropped him off. And, um, how long after that were
22 you arrested?

23 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Uh, I went home and I worked,
24 uh, at, uh, later on that afternoon I went home and I
25 went to sleep. Uh, I think couple hours or something.

1 I think about one o'clock I went -- I was gonna go to --
2 I got up to go to work.

3 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** All right, so
4 speaking of home, there is also some question about your
5 brother and whether or not you knew about his activities
6 and frankly in my mind probably some questions too about
7 whether or not he was the third person.

8 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** No, Commissioner, I wish -- I
9 wish I had known about my brother about the firebombing
10 that he did because Commissioner, I wish I knew because
11 I wouldn't be sitting here right now. Mr. Arikan
12 wouldn't have -- wouldn't have never been shot because I
13 would not -- I would not go along with it at all with
14 the -- with the murder that I did.

15 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** But -- so why
16 wouldn't you have gone along with it if you knew that
17 your brother had done the firebombing?

18 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** I didn't know.

19 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** No, and I'm
20 saying, if you had known, why would you not?

21 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't -- I
22 didn't hear you right. Uh, because Commissioner,
23 because by -- I would have thought at the time that
24 since Mr. Arikan had just been attacked that you would
25 have been protected by most likely by American FBI or

1 LAPD and in our -- in our mind at the time,
2 Commissioner, the last thing we wanted to do is harm
3 anybody that -- that -- especially Americans or anybody
4 else murdered, anybody that was not the Turkish
5 government official.

6 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** And so did you
7 guys actually have that conversation?

8 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Absolutely.

9 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** When you planned -
10 - when you planned to shoot Mr. Arikan that you want to
11 make sure that no one else got hurt?

12 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Absolutely. Absolutely.

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Okay. How do you
14 feel about that plan now? How do you feel about that
15 plan now given how this all turned out?

16 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, I feel terrible about
17 it, Commissioner. I'm ashamed about it. That I'm very
18 disappointed in myself. That I didn't think about what
19 I was doing deeply enough to -- to consider that -- to
20 think that -- that -- that no matter what anybody does,
21 that murdering a human being is never justified no
22 matter what they did as a human being or as government,
23 regardless, that, uh, I am deeply ashamed and remorseful
24 for what I did and -- and -- and -- and I feel, uh, you
25 know, that -- that I, you know, I -- though I can't

1 forgive myself for doing what I did because what I did
2 was barbaric and unforgivable and inexcusable that I had
3 -- I had -- no matter how angry I was, no -- no matter
4 what Mr. Arikan's job was and no matter what Mr. Arikan
5 said, it does not justify what I did do him. No human
6 being deserves to be treated like that. And I am deeply
7 and sincerely sorry for what I did to Mr. Arikan and his
8 family and his associates and -- and government of
9 Turkey and the Turkish people. You know, what I did was
10 barbaric and -- and -- and -- and inexcusable. And --
11 and -- and I'm -- I'm deeply ashamed of it and I'm
12 deeply sorry about it.

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Who do you see as
14 being included in the victim -- victim pool here?

15 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, Mr. Arikan and his
16 family, obviously, the country of Turkey and its people,
17 uh, Mr. Arikan's associates and -- and all Turkish
18 diplomats and officials and -- and -- and everybody at
19 the Turkish embassy that he was working and all his
20 parents and absolutely must Mrs. Arikan and -- and --
21 and their daughter. They've been -- they've been
22 suffering ever since. And, um, you know, I hurt them
23 the most. I made their -- their life a nightmare and
24 I'm deeply shamed of it because as a young man, the last
25 thing I would want to do was harm a woman and children

1 and you know, and what I did to them, Mrs. Arikan and,
2 uh, and her daughter was just unexcusable and, um,
3 again, I'm deeply ashamed and remorseful for what I did.

4 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Any other victims
5 you think?

6 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Other victims.

7 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Are there any
8 other victims?

9 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Oh, other victims would be
10 witnesses and then the judge and the jury, and then the
11 police officers and the doctors, the nurses who had the
12 witness that, you know.

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** When was the first
14 time though that you actually sat and thought about the
15 victims and who all the victims might be?

16 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** It's been in -- it's been in
17 my mind for a long time, Commissioner. But the first
18 time I really spoke about it was in 2001 when I went to
19 come back to county jail. And there was something, the
20 -- the -- the appellate court had reversed my something
21 -- had taken my life without, I believe. And the first
22 time that I had spoken in court and the DA and my
23 attorney made some kind of agreement and I -- and I read
24 what the agreement was and I was relieved that -- that -
25 - that in it, that I was confessing my crime, that I was

1 showing remorse in my crime, you know. Before that, you
2 know, it's all -- it was always, you know, don't talk
3 about your case and -- and I didn't, and -- and you
4 know, I'm ashamed that, you know, that all those times I
5 didn't man up and take responsibility, but that was --
6 that was the first time that I openly spoke out in court
7 that what I did was -- was shameful and inexcusable.

8 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** So you said that -
9 - that your attorney and the DA made that deal, so that
10 wasn't something that you came up with on your own,
11 right?

12 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, it was inside me for
13 the long term, but the first time I spoke out that was
14 in a court, yeah, but they -- you're right, that there
15 was a, you know, the -- the DA and the -- and, uh, my
16 attorney made whatever the agreement was at the time,
17 you know, they said, you know, now that, you know, you
18 can speak out in court and you could, you know, just,
19 you know, say whatever that I had agreed to, you know,
20 then -- then, you know, after that, you know, 2006, my
21 first parole hearing came up then -- then, you know,
22 finally that I could have spoke -- spoken about it.

23 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** So at the time
24 when the agreement was made and I read the statement,
25 um, did you have any hesitation to -- to, um, the

1 statement that was made?

2 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Did I hesitate?

3 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Yeah.

4 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, yes, I would say so.

5 Yeah. Because I, you know, I just didn't talk about it.

6 You know, my -- like I had cellies, many cellies that

7 they would tell me about everything they about their

8 crime, but I will simply not talk about it. Like even I

9 had couple of Armenian cellies that used to be lifers

10 and they went home and even they would -- they would

11 like be shocked that I still didn't talk about my case,

12 you know, and I think some of it was because I felt

13 shame -- because I felt shame out of it. It wasn't just

14 like be secretive about it, but that it was shame, I

15 really felt shame about it because I realized that that

16 -- that I wasn't -- when I did the killing, I was just

17 thinking that killing Mr. Arikan. But I didn't think

18 about the -- the -- the consequence. I mean, the ripple

19 effect that it wasn't just him, that he had a family and

20 he had friends and he had lot of people that loved him,

21 that they were all gonna suffer from it. Uh, just, uh,

22 at the time of the crime, I just didn't just, uh, just

23 didn't focus on that.

24 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Since that time,

25 have you thought about though, just how this affects,

1 um, a country's ability to send, you know, diplomats to
2 other countries? Have you thought about how something
3 like this --

4 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Absolutely. Yes. I have --

5 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** -- affects those
6 people?

7 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yeah. I'll -- yeah, I'll be
8 -- I'll do, yes. Because, you know, because of what I
9 did and other Armenians, they -- that -- that they put a
10 lot of fear in him. They were -- I'm sure they were all
11 frightened. They had to all get bodyguards and it
12 changed their whole lifestyles. Yes, I do,
13 Commissioner.

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** And have you
15 thought of the fact that maybe Armenians go to other
16 country as diplomats as well?

17 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** No, I didn't think about
18 that. No. I'm -- I'm being honest, I'm on the road
19 here. I didn't think about that. No.

20 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Yeah. So, of
21 course at the time you didn't certainly didn't think
22 about much beyond what your goal was. Right?

23 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, during this time then
24 we're talking about 1982 Commissioner, 1982 Armenia was
25 a -- was one of the Soviet Republic, so --

1 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Right, right. No,
2 I'm just saying at the time of the crime, you probably
3 didn't think about much, but I'm trying to understand at
4 some point did you start thinking deeper about the true
5 impact and how, you know, that impact goes on for years
6 and probably still lingers on today?

7 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** It does. It does. That's
8 why I'm -- that's why I'm, you know, I keep thinking
9 about, you know, the -- the -- especially the Arikan
10 family and, you know, the -- and his friend that, you
11 know, they still suffer no matter, he's not there, you
12 know, and they, you know, they -- the pain, you know,
13 having -- have -- especially having gone through the
14 hospice program Commissioner in, in -- in CMC and from -
15 - for like three years, I think 2009 to 2012 and seeing
16 these men on their death beds, it just -- it just
17 haunted me that -- that -- that by -- I didn't give the
18 Arikan family the chance to go to the (inaudible) that
19 these -- these, uh, criminals, the inmates were going
20 through that I just blanked out, murdered the man and --
21 and they didn't have time with him. They were just all
22 the sudden ended in -- in a second. So having gone
23 through the -- all those, uh, being on the -- on vigil -
24 - 11 vigils that I been on, that -- that whole time that
25 I was thinking about the Arikan family, that -- that how

1 much they suffered that -- that, you know, from one
2 morning saying, see you later, goodbye. I love you.
3 And a few minutes later their father and their husband
4 was dead, you know, and -- and that I deprived them from
5 having their -- their life with them and the security
6 blanket and the bread he was providing. So -- so, you
7 know, absolutely I thought about it and -- and -- and it
8 haunts me every day still, even today. And -- and it's
9 going to do tomorrow and next year, Commissioner. And -
10 - and you know, you know, having lost my mother just two
11 years ago, I -- and I know how it feels, you know, that,
12 you know, even though she died of natural causes, I -- I
13 know how it feels to lose somebody and -- and they lost
14 -- the impact on them was much worse because he wasn't -
15 - just didn't pass away nationally. He was murdered.

16 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** So have you given
17 any thoughts to how you would make amends?

18 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** I think the first amends, I
19 think Commissioner, I don't know if I'm right, but I
20 think was comes for the apology and understanding that -
21 - that what I did was wrong and -- and -- and
22 apologizing to the Arikan family and the nation of
23 Turkey and -- and everybody that -- that loved him and
24 was hurt by him. And I think also, uh, uh, changing my
25 mindset that -- that, you know, that violence is never

1 okay regardless of what that -- that there is no excuse
2 for it, don't matter what anybody does. And also that,
3 you know, I've participated in self-help groups as much
4 as I can and -- and take some, uh, uh, uh, uh, donated
5 some money to charities that we have here in San
6 Quentin. And I think my last, uh, last one was writing
7 these letters and, you know, and credit to Commissioner
8 Barton, you know, all these years and when I wrote
9 apology letters, it used to be always to the -- to
10 Arikan's family and you know, and I thought, you know,
11 okay, I apologize. You know, and I mean it, but Mr.
12 Arikan -- I mean Commissioner Barton, you know, he was -
13 - went so far into depth when I was there that he -- and
14 he's talking about empathy and remorse and I realized
15 that all these years that I hadn't written a separate
16 letter to the Turkish government, that I should also
17 apologize to the Turkish government then. And you know,
18 the Commissioner, you know, Barton's statement, you
19 know, made me realize this. There's why he told I
20 should also write a -- write a letter to the Turkish
21 government. Then I did. If I can add also Commissioner
22 that this amends, you know, doesn't end today for me,
23 that it's -- it's going to be ongoing thing. And -- and
24 -- and you know, I planned to do lot of things when I
25 get out.

1 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Like what?

2 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, I want to -- one thing
3 that I'll have learned all about Armenia is
4 unfortunately it's like a lot of other countries, even
5 the United States, there's a lot of domestic violence
6 over there and -- and you know, a lot of alcoholic
7 problems. I want to take real part in it to preach
8 against this. You know, I grew up watching my mom being
9 abused and also my sisters, their husbands were that
10 great. So I have, you know, I also watch, you know, my
11 grandma's, you know, in depression all the time. So I
12 have a lot of empathy for woman and children that I want
13 to do what I can to help them and -- and honor Mr.
14 Arikan in a lot of way and try to bring, uh, you know,
15 some kind of a dialogue, you know, between Armenia and
16 Turkey, even though I want to stay away from politics,
17 but at the same time, if I can, you know, preach
18 nonviolence and -- and -- and, uh, you know, get the new
19 generation to reach out to the -- I'm sure there is
20 great number of Turks who feel, you know, they want a
21 good friendship with Armenia and like all their
22 neighbors and, uh, uh, to these young, new generation
23 and the old generation, to reach out to each other and -
24 - and -- and resolve this misunderstanding and, you
25 know, we're going to be neighbors for a long time and

1 you know, and -- and there is no reason to be, you know,
2 resent each other and despise each other. You know,
3 there is, you know, a lot of nations that, you know,
4 Germany and France, they will -- they almost wiped each
5 other out and they have a great relationships together,
6 you know, and -- and, you know, I don't see why not
7 Armenia and -- and -- and Turkey could be, uh, you know,
8 friends too and put, you know, we have far more in
9 common than we have differences, you know, and we can't
10 change the past, but we can sure change the future, you
11 know. And that's what I want to -- I want to be a
12 preacher of peace, you know.

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** When did you make
14 the decision though to stay away from politics? When
15 did you make the decision to stay away from politics?

16 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, cause you know, because
17 of my crime Commissioner, you know, thought about it,
18 you know, to -- to take, you know, it's good for me to
19 advocate peace. And --

20 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** But when did you
21 make that decision?

22 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** A few years ago. Few years
23 ago.

24 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** You don't know
25 when?

1 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** I think it come -- came up
2 like during Montes' hearing in 2015.

3 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Okay. So you made
4 the decision at that time that you -- you wanted to stay
5 far away from politics?

6 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, see this is like a two
7 way sword or two way whatever. You know, in a way, I
8 want to stay for, you know, I think some days that I
9 should be away from it because I'm the last guy should
10 be getting involved with politics. And I think some
11 Commissioners have hinted that to me. Like, you know,
12 or I could be wrong, but that -- that -- that politics
13 is somewhere I should stay out of, but I think other
14 Commissioners have -- or I -- and I thought that maybe I
15 would be a prime example that should, uh, preach peace
16 and -- and -- and nonviolence because of my case that --
17 that I know better than anybody else that -- that, uh,
18 uh, uh, that peaceful dialogue will be the road to go
19 because otherwise this is what happens. You know, that
20 people get murdered and -- and -- and a lot of people go
21 through traumas and nightmares and pain and suffering
22 and -- and -- and -- and, you know, also the
23 (inaudible), uh, his -- his life is also over too.

24 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** How -- how can
25 this panel be assured that if you're granted parole that

1 you won't just go back to what you were doing?

2 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Commissioner, there is no
3 way, and I'm sorry to say, there is no way a chance in
4 hell that I will not only harm anybody physically, but I
5 wouldn't the smallest of laws that I -- that -- that
6 violate any, you know, the last thing I want to do
7 Commissioner is see another -- another inside of another
8 prison that -- that what I went -- what I did to, uh,
9 Mr. Arikan and his family, all the pain I made them
10 suffer, it just -- it would be barbaric and completely
11 inhumane, um, and shameless for me, not only not to hurt
12 any, but I'm talking about the smallest violation that -
13 - that you guys, the Commissioner, you're here today to
14 decide whether to give me another chance of freedom, of
15 another chance of life. And for me to even to go out
16 there and do the smallest violation of any kind of
17 violation, the smallness of --the smallest misdemeanors.
18 And to come in and sit here again, Commissioner and
19 having -- have to look at you and explain to you how the
20 hell that I ended up back this chair to me to -- to me
21 is like the worst punishment of -- of the worst form of
22 shame in life, Commissioner that -- that you guys would
23 give me a -- consider to give me a chance in life and
24 for me to -- to -- to disrespect you, to embarrass you
25 like that is completely inhumane and -- and unthinkable

1 for me that -- and that will never happen, Commissioner.
2 That I will not only not ever resort to violence, I will
3 not violate any -- the smallest form of -- of -- of any
4 -- the smallest form of misdemeanor or even cuss
5 somebody out. It's not going to happen because I'm not
6 going to come back in here, Commissioner. It's not --
7 I'm not gonna sit here again and explain to you why I'm
8 sitting here again. It's not going to happen,
9 Commissioner.

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** What -- what are
11 your plans to manage, um, any political stressors that
12 might come up for you if you're, you know, if you
13 returned to Armenia?

14 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Commissioner, if there is --

15 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** It will be
16 unavoidable there.

17 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well -- well, I don't know
18 about that Commissioner because I don't think like I've
19 -- I mean, I've read the documents and that there's like
20 great hardliners over there. I mean, they might be some
21 (inaudible) over there, but I know how to deal with it,
22 Commissioner. I know how to -- I know how to, you know,
23 no matter if somebody came to me and said, you know,
24 there's these hardlines thing going on is, you know,
25 first -- the first thing I'm gonna do is call the cops

1 and told them to get lost and call the cops. There's --
2 there's no -- I'm not a kid, Commissioner. I'm -- I'm a
3 very strong-willed person and -- and -- and I don't let
4 other people, you know, to dictate to me, you know,
5 especially bad. I'm talking about bad things to -- to,
6 uh, to -- what to do. And you can look at my records in
7 all of these -- as a 19 year old, I came to prison.
8 What happens to 19 years old, 21 years old when they
9 come to prison, they become dope fiends, they join
10 gangs, they go stabbing, they -- they start assaulting
11 staff. And you look at my record Commissioner, you will
12 see none of this. I'm not -- I didn't become a gang
13 member. I didn't become a drug addict. I didn't join
14 no riots. I didn't go assault staff. I'm not
15 influenced by -- by others around me, Commissioner. I'm
16 not a 19 year old anymore. I'm a grown -- grown and
17 mature man. I made good decision. In other fact, you
18 can look at, Commissioner. I have said this other
19 Commissioners before. I got here in 84, Commissioner.
20 I was here for three years and if you look on your
21 records Commissioner, you will see that in those three
22 years that I was here, I didn't do nothing but get 115s.
23 I ditch work. I didn't go to work. I didn't go to
24 school. I didn't do nothing here but get what, I think
25 six 115s and eight -- eight 128s. That's what I got

1 here. When you look at --

2 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** That's good. But
3 I mean, I think the challenges would be different for
4 you here than if you were on the street. And that's
5 kind of what I'm wanting to focus on.

6 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Commissioner, I'm -- I'm --
7 I'm a matured man Commissioner. There is, like I said,
8 there is nothing that's gonna get me to do anything bad
9 to anybody or break any laws. I'm a mature man and I've
10 taken -- I know all the steps. I'm talking about take
11 the step if I feel angry, if I need help, I know how to
12 -- one thing I never done before is seek help, other
13 people have. I have no problem doing that whatsoever.
14 You know, and I'm going to keep -- I'm going to stay
15 away from nationalistic people, whoever they are. I'm
16 going to get married, I'm going to have -- try to have a
17 kid at this stage if I can. And I got a job in Armenia
18 and here and I got places to stay and -- and -- and, you
19 know, Commissioner, I will not be near anybody like --
20 that -- that advocates violence. And if somebody is
21 dumb enough to approach me with something like that,
22 Commissioner, he's going to be sitting here facing you
23 because I'm going to call the cops without hesitation
24 because they're not going to cause me to come back in
25 here. Even -- even for cursing somebody out over, you

1 know, for anything period. Uh, you know, the point
2 though, the bottom line is Commissioner, I'm not
3 influenced by people. They -- they -- nobody's gonna
4 dictate nothing to me as far as doing anything illegal,
5 harming anybody, especially harming anybody. If they
6 do, you will -- you will see that they're going to be in
7 jail for doing that, Commissioner. I have no problem
8 calling the authorities.

9 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Um, let me see,
10 uh, any -- any follow up, Commissioner?

11 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Um, yeah. Um, so I
12 was kind of curious as to how you learned how to handle
13 the weapon you used in the commitment offense.

14 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** We used to, me and my crime
15 partner, we used to -- there was this AYF camp in Big
16 Pines. I don't know exactly. It's in LA somewhere and
17 when we used to go camping there all the time, just not
18 me and me, but a whole bunch of people every year I
19 think there's -- the whole community would go to the AYF
20 camp, you know, like couple hundred. You know, I'm
21 talking about not just young men, I'm talking men,
22 woman, and children, everybody. And right across this
23 AYF camp, like -- like half hour into the woods, there
24 was this little hill area that was bulldozed, you know,
25 and we used to -- people used to go to shoot -- you

1 shoot weapon. It was -- this wasn't a legal, uh, fire -
2 - firing grounds -- firing place. And people used to go
3 there to shoot weapons, you know, and --

4 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Was this part of a
5 AYF programs?

6 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** No, it's not. This is -- was
7 like a public place. It was -- it wasn't like a hidden
8 place from anybody that I went there couple, three, four
9 times I've been there. I've seen bikers there shooting
10 their weapons and other place, you know, like hunters.

11 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Yeah. So I know it
12 was illegal activity, but I was wondering if it was part
13 of an AYF program.

14 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** No, no, no. No.

15 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Okay. Um, um, so
16 how would you deal with, uh, you're a hero in some
17 people's eyes for what you did. How do you -- how would
18 you deal with that idolization?

19 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Commissioner, I'm not a --
20 I'm not a hero. I'm a murderer. And for years I --
21 like, I've been silent, like I said, then Armenian
22 people Commissioner, they because of the history --
23 historical things, you know a lot of them are angry with
24 the Turkish people for not manning up and acknowledging
25 the genocide and finding (inaudible). So the bottom

1 line Commissioner, I'm not a hero, I've never been a
2 hero and I've said a couple times in these letters that
3 I'm not a hero and I will preach that the rest of my
4 life because the -- the -- the murdering a human being
5 who's going to work, there's nothing --

6 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Okay, but he's asking you what
7 are you going to do in a situation if somebody --

8 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, I'm going to tell --
9 I'm sorry, Commissioner.

10 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Do you want to rephrase your
11 question? I don't want to put words in your mouth.

12 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** No, no, I got it now.

13 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** (inaudible).

14 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** I got it now. I'm sorry,
15 Commissioner that -- that I would tell them that I'm not
16 a hero. That -- that -- that -- that -- that there is
17 nothing, what I did was heroic. That -- that -- that
18 they wrong in thinking that and that I will say anything
19 I can to -- to -- to -- to get them to understand that
20 murdering a human being, there is nothing heroic to it,
21 no matter what the background stories is to it. No
22 matter what that -- what that person did. There's, you
23 know, bottom line is I'm not a hero and that's exactly
24 what I will tell them. That's exactly what I will
25 preach them that -- that the only way -- only heroes are

1 people who find the diplomacy and dialogue and
2 compassion and -- and -- and tolerance and -- and
3 dialogue, communication as a -- as a way, a means to
4 solve problem. They're the heroes.

5 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Okay. So I was
6 noticing, uh, the JCAG on a number of occasions has, um,
7 taken I guess credit for your activities, suggesting
8 that you are a member of the JCAG. Um, how do you
9 explain why they continuously represent themselves as --
10 or represent you as being a member of -- of their
11 organization?

12 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Commissioner, can I just point
13 something out, and I apologize because in my review of
14 the record, JCAG itself, the organization has not come
15 out and said he was a member. This is -- this is
16 something that has been reprinted by other people saying
17 that he was a member of JCAG.

18 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** There's nothing
19 from them in the file.

20 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Yeah.

21 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Yeah. So -- so if you want to
22 re -- I just wanted to point that out, but --

23 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** There's another way.
24 I'll just --

25 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Okay. Thank you.

1 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** -- be very specific.
2 Um, after the crime was committed, someone called up the
3 United Press International and claimed that the crime
4 had been committed on behalf of the JCAG. How do you
5 explain why they would -- by you on behalf of the JCAG,
6 how would you explain why they would have said that?

7 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, I have no idea why they
8 would say that Commissioner, but I want to assure you
9 one -- one thing Commissioner if I was a member of a
10 group Commissioner that -- that -- I would not deny it.
11 I would tell you I was a member of it Commissioner that
12 -- that -- that it was -- to me, it was -- it's
13 unthinkable Commissioner that for me to tell you that --
14 that -- that I committed a murder then deny something
15 that these look so, uh, uh, uh, minor to comparing to
16 murder. That's like confessing to felony but not
17 admitting to a misdemeanor. You know, if I was a member
18 Commissioner, I assure you that first of all, this --
19 this -- this crime would have never happened because I
20 would not let anybody tell me -- if Coco had tell me
21 there was another person involved with it, I would have
22 said no, you go do it with them because I'm not taking
23 part in it. Because as a young man, I did not let
24 nobody tell me what to do. This -- I did this murder
25 because I wanted to -- to do it because I was angry with

1 -- I wanted to carry out this murder. Bottom line,
2 Commissioner, I'm not a member. I've never been a
3 member. I have no idea what the -- what is it, JCAG.
4 Yeah, why they would say that. I am not a member. If I
5 did -- or I was a member Commissioner, I would tell you
6 I was.

7 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** So -- so in -- in
8 your life crime, who was the leader, if there was one in
9 -- in that crime? Who would you say was basically
10 calling the shot?

11 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, he was me and my crime
12 partner Commissioner because it was both our -- both our
13 ideas. There were some times where he was kind of
14 hesitant to carry out with it. I would talk him into
15 it. And there was -- I'm sure there was a time that I
16 was kind of doubtful about it, whether I should go on,
17 he talked me into it. So -- so it will be wrong for me
18 to say it was him or it was me. It was -- it was both
19 of us. It was both of our ideas and we both wanted to
20 carry out with it.

21 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** And Commissioner, I just wanted
22 to correct one -- one point about JCAG, and they did
23 contact, uh, UPI, but they -- in their statement,
24 according to the probation officer's report, they took
25 responsibility for the murder. They did not, uh, they

1 did not state that Mr. Sassounian had committed it.
2 They never said the crime was committed by Mr.
3 Sassounian. They just took general responsibility and
4 said, we did it.

5 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Okay. Yeah. I
6 appreciate that clarification.

7 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Thank you, Commissioner.

8 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Um, so another
9 concern I had is apparently according to prior hearings,
10 um, you have a tattoo on your chest or something?

11 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yes, yes.

12 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** And that's ARF or
13 something?

14 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well -- well Commissioner,
15 it's -- it's like -- it's a symbol that is very used by
16 all Armenians. It's like, uh, like the Eagle for United
17 States or the -- or the -- or the -- or the, uh,
18 Rushmore, you know, and the ARF uses the symbol, but
19 underneath it says ARF on it, which means Armenian
20 Revolutionary Federation. I have this -- that symbol,
21 but it doesn't say ARF underneath. It says Armenian
22 underneath, you know, that, uh, you know, so it's, uh,
23 you know, they, you know, I know the DA and others claim
24 that it's only the ARFs, it's not. A lot of people use
25 that. I -- there was Armenian guy here that he is not a

1 ARF member. He had the same tattoo on his whole back,
2 the whole back. I'm talking about like damn near two
3 feet across, eh, you know, so --

4 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Is it a
5 revolutionary organization?

6 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, it was -- yes, it was.
7 Yes. It was founded in 18 -- 1890. This is the time
8 when everybody was killing Armenians and there was three
9 Armenian political groups were formed in 18 -- 1887 and
10 1890 and one was even before that to -- to -- to put and
11 end to these prosecutions and these murders that was
12 being genocides with, being carried out against the
13 Armenians. Some, you know, young men and political
14 organizations said, we got to defend ourself. We got to
15 --

16 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** So you're -- so
17 you're saying that nowadays or in more recent times,
18 people that aren't necessarily involved in revolutionary
19 activity, ah, put that tattoo on their body?

20 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, I don't know what
21 people do, but I know it's not just used by ARF. It's a
22 lot of -- I know a lot of people got that -- that is
23 like the guy that used to be in here that I went home
24 five years ago. He had it, he's not a ARF member.

25 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Okay, so just

1 because you have that tattoo doesn't mean you're a
2 member according to you?

3 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Oh, no, no, no. This is not
4 like the Mexican mafia, the black hand thing. This --
5 anybody can put -- put it on, whoever wants it.

6 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** So how did you end
7 up getting it?

8 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** This, uh, this was I think in
9 92 or 93, I had a Mexican celly for a while. You know,
10 I had -- I used to be listed as an other and this guy is
11 a tattoo artist and I had no tattoos whatsoever and he
12 kept sweating me. Come on, let me put a tattoo on. Let
13 me -- and I said, I don't want a tattoo. You know, I
14 was his celly for maybe a year or several months. He
15 kept harassing me, harassing me, one day I said, okay,
16 then now I didn't know what to put on it. I want -- I
17 wanted to put his is (inaudible), which is a biblical
18 mountain where Noah's Ark landed on and I wanted to put
19 that mountain.

20 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** How -- how big is
21 the tattoo?

22 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Huh?

23 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** How big is it?

24 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** The tattoo is just -- I'll
25 show you.

1 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** All right. That's
2 about three inches.

3 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Four inches. Three inches
4 across, something.

5 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Yeah.

6 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** So, uh, and I couldn't find a
7 picture of that mountain, you know, I look -- I looked
8 through the newspapers. Uh, I couldn't find it. And
9 then I saw this symbol in -- it was, you know, it was
10 like this big, you know, like very small and he -- and
11 he knew how to draw. He said, I can make it bigger if,
12 you know, I said, okay, go ahead, make it big. Drew the
13 -- this picture in bigger form. Then he -- then he put
14 it on there.

15 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Um, have you given
16 any thought to a developing a peace plan for the
17 Armenians and the Turkish governments?

18 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** I would like to Commissioner,
19 yes. You know, like I said, you know, I want to do
20 something, you know, to -- for peaceful dialogue, but
21 there are days I'm thinking maybe, you know, it's not
22 for me to do this because you know, you know, because of
23 the -- you know, there are far many, I mean, a lot of
24 people are doing that right now. Armenia has reached
25 many times to Turkey to have a dialogue. And --

1 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Do you think it's
2 healthy for you to think about that negative situation?
3 Does it make you angry?

4 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** No. No. Well, Commissioner
5 I get angry probably every day, but I know how to deal
6 with anger now. I'm not, you know, I know how to deal,
7 I know how to solve, you know, deal with my anger now.

8 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Okay. Those are the
9 only questions I had.

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Um, I'm going to
11 jump into your area before I turn it over to you. Um --

12 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Would it be possible to take a
13 break? Should we do that now? Yeah.

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** You need a break?
15 Sure, let's take a break. Time is 10:19. We'll take a
16 break.

17 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Off the record.

18 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** And just let us
19 know when you're ready to --

20 **R E C E S S**

21 --oOo--

22 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** On the record.

23 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** We are back on the
24 record time is 10:29. All right, so Mr. Sassounian, I
25 have a couple of questions before I turn it over to my

1 partner here for post-conviction. Um, I looked at your
2 -- your relapse prevention plan and you've outlined
3 several triggers and I just want to get some
4 clarification on a couple of them. The first is your
5 external, your first external trigger. It says being
6 around extremely political views.

7 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yes.

8 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** So what's your
9 plan to manage that?

10 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well stay away from it.

11 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Stay away from it.

12 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Stay away from them and as
13 soon -- as soon as I sense that they are around me, that
14 I'm, you know, like I said, either call the cops and
15 then get away from them because I don't, you know, I
16 don't need that in my life.

17 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** All right. And
18 then number eight on the internal triggers, sense of
19 being a victim of injustice, seeing myself as a victim,
20 what's your plan to manage that?

21 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, I -- I no longer think
22 that I'm a victim of injustice that now I understand
23 that first of all, that that Armenia is an independent
24 country now than that, you know, Armenia has many
25 channels to deal with all political issues with Turkey

1 and, uh, and this is something that, you know, that I
2 should keep my distance away from it and that I no
3 longer see myself.

4 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** No, okay. She's asking you
5 what your coping skill is for this particular issue of
6 victim hood. Do I have that correct, Commissioner?

7 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** That sounds right.

8 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Yeah, that's the question she
9 wants you to add -- answer. So if that gets triggered,
10 if that sense of being a victim gets triggered, how are
11 you going to deal with it?

12 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, seek help. I'll good
13 talk to people that, you know, my -- my web of people
14 around me that -- that, you know, are older people,
15 wiser people, people who never been in trouble, church
16 and -- and you know, people may be that professors
17 whatever that who know how to deal with, you know, are
18 good advisors and intelligent people. I will go seek
19 their help, you know, and -- and like -- like before
20 Commissioner if I may add like during my youthful years
21 and -- and -- and beyond, I used to dwell on a lot of
22 negative things, you know, but what happened
23 historically what they did to us and that -- that I saw
24 myself as a victim during the crime at, but I don't
25 dwell on negative things, Commissioner. I just -- I

1 just, you know, I stay on positive issues and -- and you
2 know, I'm a social guy, I believe that -- and the bottom
3 line is that when I feel like I'm troubled something I
4 will seek help like most normal people do, you know.

5 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Okay. All right.
6 I'll have you give your attention to Deputy Commissioner
7 Taylor. Talk about post-conviction.

8 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** All right, so I'm
9 going to discuss post-conviction, which is everything
10 which happened after you were committed to prison. So
11 I'll be sketching briefly through your most recent
12 activities and --

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** We're not going to
14 talk about everything that's happened since you've come
15 to prison. We're going to focus on everything that's
16 happened since the last hearing.

17 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Right. Sure. Thank you.

18 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Too long, too many years.

19 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** So yeah. But know
20 this, that we are aware of everything that's happened
21 since you come to prison. We've reviewed your C-file in
22 depth and so we'll incorporate that by reference in this
23 hearing and -- but we're just going to discuss what's
24 happened since the last hearing. You know, all the
25 different, I guess you could call them domains of

1 concern in post-conviction. So, um, it looks like what
2 I'll be covering in these domains is the academic
3 activities such as they may be, work, vocational
4 activities, disciplinary history, um, programming will
5 be of some concern. Parole plans will probably require
6 a fair amount of -- and supporting and opposing
7 documents would probably require a fair amount of
8 exposition.

9 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Commissioner, would you mind
10 speaking up a little bit just so we can hear you?

11 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** All right.

12 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Yeah. You just have a softer
13 voice. Thank you.

14 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Yeah. It sounds
15 loud to me, but right next to me. So, um, so
16 academically, I don't see any new developments. No
17 college, right? Nothing like that.

18 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** College, no.

19 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** All right.

20 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** We have one additional
21 submission. Uh, the certificate that Mr. Sassounian
22 just handed me, which was recently completed, correct?

23 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yes.

24 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** He just got it.

25 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** We just finished this

1 Saturday. Yes. Last -- last week.

2 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** So that won't -- so we'll hand
3 this around.

4 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** All right.

5 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Thank you.

6 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** I imagine it's
7 something relating to programming.

8 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Yes, sir.

9 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** We'll get to that.

10 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Okay.

11 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Okay.

12 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Um, work history
13 wise, uh, it looks like you're still working in the
14 dining room and scullery, correct?

15 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yes. Yes.

16 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Nothing new there
17 since your last hearing?

18 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yes.

19 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Vocationally, there
20 was something new. It looked like you completed a
21 vocational computer literacy?

22 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yes.

23 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** We already have
24 that. We have the -- that -- that's in the file.

25 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Um, thanks.

1 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Oh, that one. Yeah.

2 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Yeah, I heard about
3 that. Um, so let's move on to disciplinary news. Uh,
4 no news as far as disciplines since your last hearing?

5 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** No.

6 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Okay. Um, did you
7 commit any rules violations that weren't reported since
8 your last hearing?

9 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** No, I hope not.

10 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Yeah. All right.
11 So then we -- we have programming which, uh, shows, uh,
12 that you completed one program, which I just got a
13 certificate for. It's called a no more tears.

14 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yes.

15 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** It's the response to
16 violence. And, uh, I guess I should ask you, what's the
17 most important thing you got out of that program?

18 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** That I got out of that -- I
19 just graduated, yes.

20 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** No more tears.
21 Yeah.

22 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** No, the question
23 is what's the most important thing that you got out of
24 the program?

25 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Oh, I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

1 Yeah. Well it had a lot to do with violence and
2 domestic violence and -- and you know, like so many
3 other groups that we take Commissioner, these just how
4 to deal with violence, uh, and then how to not to resort
5 to violence. And that is communication and respect and
6 compassion to everybody and -- and more -- and also
7 listening, you know, to try to understand their point of
8 view and to -- to respect, you know, law and individuals
9 and their opinions and -- and -- and never -- never get
10 violent. And this had a lot to do with, uh, with the
11 domestic issues I think, as I remember it, which is
12 something I'm very passionately against, uh, I'm
13 against, you know, having, you know, seeing my sisters
14 and my mother go through a lot of domestic violence and
15 -- and other -- other woman that I'm passionately
16 against and which no matter what it is, I will never
17 resort to violence, bottom line period.

18 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Did that answer your question,
19 Commissioner?

20 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Uh, yeah, that's --
21 my question was pretty general. So that's pretty
22 general of an answer. Is there anything from this
23 program that you could take away that you could apply to
24 the, uh, Turkish Armenian question as far as doing
25 things peacefully?

1 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, yeah, the dialogue I
2 think is the key, you know, to talk to each other, you
3 know, and, uh, you know, that's -- that's -- what -- how
4 people don't understand and talk to understand different
5 points of view, you know, and there is a lot of, you
6 know, nations and individuals and brothers and sisters,
7 they have different point of view and -- and the --
8 there is -- the only thing is to talk and to understand
9 each other and to respect each other and -- and never to
10 use violence or insulting each other as a means of
11 solving problem because that's never going to solve any
12 problems.

13 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** So what are some red
14 flags that, uh, you might have identified which would
15 indicate you're -- you're -- you're starting to think
16 about committing some act of political violence?

17 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** It's never -- it's never
18 going to happen, Commissioner. You know, I might hear
19 things, I might see things that I might get angry.

20 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Yeah, but he's asking you what
21 sort of red flags would -- or -- or things would be a
22 trigger that you were going to commit political
23 violence?

24 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, being -- being, you
25 know, you know, being around guns and seeing people

1 suffer, you know, things like that could be -- or being
2 around (inaudible) could be triggers. But like I said,
3 Commissioner that it's not going to happen. I'm not
4 going to be around such people or guns or knives or
5 anything else.

6 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** So you can't --
7 you can't do away with people suffering.

8 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well I know it's -- I'm just
9 saying it might be a trigger.

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** That's a part of
11 life.

12 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** But I know how to deal with
13 it, you know.

14 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** So tell them how you would deal
15 with it.

16 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, by try to help them,
17 you know, that's the key, try to help them if I can,
18 whether it's, you know, you know, give them food and
19 give food, try to talk to them and, you know, call the
20 authorities and the, you know, they, you know, when I
21 need help, uh, you know, I ask other people, whether it
22 is medical or psychiatrist or whatever, you know, there
23 is always people whatever -- whatever reason to help
24 them, whether it's security or medical or -- or food,
25 whatever. And that's what I intend to do, Commissioner

1 is help whoever I can, you know, whatever I can help
2 them with, you know.

3 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Do you plan to
4 involve yourself with weapons in the future?

5 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** No, absolutely not.

6 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Okay. Um, so, uh, I
7 think I've discussed your programming as much as, uh, I
8 think is necessary. The Commissioner discussed a lot of
9 the concerns I had in the programming area. Do you have
10 anything to add to that?

11 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Oh, well I -- yeah, I'm
12 thankful what -- for all these self-help groups that we
13 have here Commissioner like sometime I smile and
14 thinking how this place used to be in 84, 85, 86, and 87
15 and you know, there was no such programs except
16 vocations of course, but now we have some like hundred
17 self-help groups and -- and you know, it opened beside
18 me grown up, becoming a mature then men that -- who
19 thinks, you know, before reacting. Then all these self-
20 help groups that -- that -- that -- that teach us so
21 much about family and community and -- and -- and -- and
22 -- and love and peace and compassion and remorse. And,
23 you know, and I'm grateful for it because they did make
24 me a better person.

25 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** So like going back

1 to your life crime quickly, um, did you -- what'd you
2 consider the consequences of that would be when -- did
3 you consider what the consequences would be if you
4 committed it?

5 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** My crime?

6 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Your life crime.
7 Yeah.

8 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Commissioner, at the time I
9 was so angry, I didn't care about nothing at all,
10 including myself. And that's the honest the truth. I
11 just didn't care.

12 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Did you care if
13 you've got caught?

14 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yes, I did care about that.

15 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Did you make any
16 plans to get away?

17 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** No.

18 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Okay.

19 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** I went home and went to sleep
20 and -- and, uh, you know, I use my own -- Commissioner,
21 it's -- it was, I used my own car. I didn't use nothing
22 to disguise myself. It was, you know, like, uh, you
23 know what -- what that book, how not to do something for
24 dummies, you know, like it was so many things that, you
25 know, first of all, I shouldn't have never committed the

1 murder, but -- but I have heard the DA say that this was
2 a professional hit and stuff and in couple of hearings
3 before and last hearing, which I just smile like we
4 murdered a man before 250, a hundred witnesses with no
5 disguises and -- and -- and, you know, I used my own car
6 to go to commit the crime. So what's professional about
7 that? I have no idea. But --

8 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Didn't your crime
9 partner have concerns about this method of
10 assassination?

11 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, we just planned it that
12 -- that's how we were going to murder him. But he
13 didn't suggest -- I mean, he didn't say we better not do
14 it this way or that way. I mean, not that I remember
15 anything.

16 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** All right. Well
17 let's go onto your parole plans and supporting --

18 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Before we -- did you want to
19 say anything about the self-help that you did on your
20 own with the (inaudible) writing or anything?

21 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yeah. Oh yeah. I did book -
22 - Commissioner Barton suggested I do book reports and I
23 did book reports on Martin Luther King and -- and -- and
24 -- and Mandela, which he suggested. I also, uh, found
25 this beautiful book, which I -- this is the Indian

1 thinking about Indian teaching, I copied the whole book.
2 You know, it -- it talks about love and peace and
3 compassion.

4 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** It's the Buddhist texts, the
5 Dhammapada. I don't have it in front of me to spell.

6 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** I also copied the Psalm, the
7 whole Psalm from the Bible, and I should have kept it
8 and brought it here, but I donated it to a friend of
9 mine that the Armenian preacher in this -- in Sacramento
10 -- in Sacramento area, I mean the Armenian preacher from
11 this area church visited me. I gave it to him as a --
12 as a, you know, as a thank you for visiting me, the
13 Psalm that I copied from the Bible.

14 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Okay, thank you.

15 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** And that was to me is very,
16 uh --

17 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** That information. I
18 look forward to looking at that.

19 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Go ahead. Did you want to --
20 it was very what? Did you want to say something?

21 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** No, I think that's it. That
22 also the letters I wrote that, you know, that --

23 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** No, about the, you were going
24 to say something about the Dhammapada and the other
25 writings.

1 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yeah. That it was very, you
2 know, the, you know, eye-opening that it teaches great
3 deal about love and about wisdom and about, you know,
4 responsibility and compassion and -- and I really, you
5 know, I really, uh, uh, you know, whenever I did
6 meditate and feel calm, when I look at that and read
7 that. And I also have a Martin Luther King letter from,
8 uh, from prison, he wrote from Birmingham. And that's,
9 I think is very, you know, very educational. I think,
10 uh, you know, that, you know, it just amazes me that he,
11 you know, he -- what he did for -- for civil rights in
12 this country, that you know, all the injustices he
13 suffered, that even though he was just peacefully
14 protested, he was beaten and he was incar -- put in jail
15 and from in jail, he wrote one of the greatest letter
16 ever written in a -- from prison, which kind of reminded
17 me of Socrates when he was on trial. The speech he gave
18 right before he was killed. You know, that -- that
19 despite that what was happening to them, that these two
20 great men, despite they were being persecuted, they has
21 so much love in their heart that they didn't -- they
22 didn't hate, they didn't curse and they didn't say
23 nothing negative about people who are persecuting them.
24 And -- and -- and that's what, you know, I want to, in a
25 very, very small way, I want to be like that, that --

1 that I want to be, you know, known as a man of peace
2 that I -- first half of my life I did the unforgivable
3 act of crime and I did bad things. I made bad decisions
4 in my life and I hope the rest of my life I'll be a good
5 example and be -- be -- speak about peace and dialogue
6 and try to impact people for the best I can to -- to
7 better their life by, uh, by that, also improve my life
8 by doing that, by helping others.

9 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Okay.

10 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Thank you, Commissioner.

11 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** So, um, what I'm
12 going to do now is, um, go through your parole plans and
13 supporting and opposing documents. Um, my approach will
14 be basically to summarize what is there within different
15 categories and then we can come back, um, at the end of
16 my summaries and discuss the more remarkable documents
17 such as they may be. So --

18 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Parole plans. Okay. This is
19 California first. Okay. That's California. Go ahead.

20 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Okay.

21 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** I'm just getting him the
22 documents so he can follow with you.

23 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Yeah, we got about
24 46 different documents.

25 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Okay.

1 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Um, so as far as,
2 um, parole plans go, housing wise, there are five
3 letters.

4 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yes. I believe so.

5 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** And four of them
6 regard housing in the United States. One regards
7 housing in Armenia and, um, as far as housing offers in
8 the United States, we have Francisco Homes, absolute
9 control, your brother's offering housing and a person
10 named, uh, Dazalane (phonetic) is offering housing and
11 financial assistance. So which of those is preferable
12 to you?

13 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Oh, Commissioner, I discussed
14 this with the psych, this doctor Mercia I believe his
15 name that I either really, really mean this, I'd really
16 rather go through the reentry program, you know, and I
17 remember I told her that, you know, from not having
18 anything for 38 years now in prison, not having freedom,
19 not having woman and not having a car to drive around,
20 you know, and not having a good steak to eat, you know,
21 after not having, not and all of a sudden into having
22 everything it might be, you know, I mean it won't be too
23 much, but I'd rather go through the -- the -- to the --
24 the --

25 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Which one would you like to go

1 to?

2 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** To the reentry home.

3 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Which one?

4 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Franscisco Homes?

5 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** I'd rather go to -- oh,

6 that's what you meant by which one?

7 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Yeah, right.

8 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** I thought -- I thought he

9 meant which --

10 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Would you like -- which is your
11 first choice?

12 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Absolute control. I mean,
13 no, no, excuse me. No, I'd rather go with mother --
14 mother -- Francisco, Mother Teresa.

15 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Okay.

16 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** I mean Sister Teresa.

17 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Sister Teresa.

18 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Okay.

19 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** I'm sorry.

20 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** So --

21 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** I am nervous commissioner,
22 please forgive me.

23 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** That's okay. It's
24 natural in this situation.

25 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** She is like mother Teresa.

1 I've spoken to her many times.

2 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** So, uh, then we
3 have, uh, for Armenia, uh, an offer, uh, from Meikleour.

4 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yes.

5 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** So that's your sole
6 option in Armenia. And from their description, it
7 sounds like they have a fairly nice situation. They
8 have pretty good jobs and they're offering a room in
9 their house. Is that correct?

10 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yes.

11 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Okay. Um, then we
12 have, uh, speaking of jobs, we have a number of job
13 offers, um, letters offering jobs, six from the United
14 States, four from Armenia. Um, of the six job offers in
15 the United States, um, which you're probably familiar
16 with, which one do you prefer?

17 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** The US. You want to look at
18 that? Okay.

19 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Yeah, so -- so the
20 job offer letters we have are Tim Bouley restaurant, the
21 homeowners association, around the clock cleaners.

22 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** I'd rather work the
23 restaurant, uh, the closest one that, uh, that I can get
24 to and, you know, uh, if I'm staying in the Francisco
25 Home, Commissioner, uh, I don't know the exact address,

1 but whatever is the closest job I think, you know, I
2 think it would be the best for me because I don't want
3 to, you know, drive an hour or sit in a bus for an hour
4 or two to get to the workplace. So whichever is
5 possible, but you know, if the -- the environment isn't
6 good or it's in a bad neighborhood, then I would rather
7 go to -- to the place that is in a better neighborhood.

8 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Okay. And then you
9 got four job offer letters from places in Armenia and
10 they're -- they're basically work as a cook or chef.

11 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yes.

12 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** So we have those,
13 uh, in our records. Um, we also have a letter offering
14 mental health services. Um --

15 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yes.

16 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** And that individual
17 is in -- in Armenia?

18 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yes.

19 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Okay. And why do
20 you have him on your team -- transitional team?

21 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** In case I need help,
22 Commissioner. In case I, you know, I need, uh, you
23 know, I feel like I need the psychology, you know, the
24 doctor to talk to, you know, uh, and I, uh, plan to get
25 married in Armenia, so I might need one.

1 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Okay. So then we
2 have, um, about 12 letters, which I would classify as
3 moral support. Five are from church leaders, seven from
4 family and other people.

5 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yes. Yes.

6 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** So, uh, the five
7 church letters, uh, they got some fairly important
8 sounding people among them, like Archbishop of the
9 Armenian Apathetic Church. Um, chaplain Raffi, senior
10 chaplain of the LA County.

11 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yes.

12 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** So we have those
13 letters.

14 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yes.

15 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** (inaudible) from
16 church leaders. Um, we have seven from family members,
17 um, and friends. Um, your mother, your brother, I guess
18 he's your younger brother.

19 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yes.

20 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** And one from, uh,
21 your niece. Um --

22 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yeah, the niece is also, she
23 -- she's, uh, she's like not a psychiatrist, but she's a
24 --

25 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Psychologist?

1 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yeah, she was -- she helps
2 troubled youth. So she's got experience in that field.

3 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** And one from your
4 sister in law and, uh, she seems to think that you've
5 made a positive difference and plan to make a positive
6 difference. Um, we have also one actually from the, uh,
7 judge that decided your case.

8 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yes.

9 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Henry Nelson, um,
10 which we'll consider in deliberations as well. So we
11 have all those different supporting letters. Um, any of
12 those letters in particular you want me to take note of?

13 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** You want to say anything
14 special about any one of those letters?

15 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, I am -- well, I am -- I
16 am thankful to everybody, uh, for supporting me, you
17 know, having good friends, you know, after what I did,
18 Commissioner, having people who are still here after 38
19 years due to --

20 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Okay, so help --
21 yeah, well we got that. So we'll consider all the --
22 those letters in deliberations.

23 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** If I may, Commissioner, I
24 don't mean to cut you, but I want to especially thank
25 the judge, judge Nelson because this is the judge that

1 sentenced me, you know, and for him to write to Board
2 and ask you to -- to -- to find me suitable, I mean that
3 talks volumes I think that, you know, that I am
4 gratefully thankful of him and it shows what -- what a
5 great heart he has that -- that -- that after
6 sentencing, he's just like almost like Jesus, like
7 heart. You know that after sentencing somebody 38 years
8 ago to life in prison, that he would write the Parole
9 Board asking you to find me suitable. I think that --
10 that -- that right there is, I mean, I don't know. Oh,
11 I don't know how -- I don't know -- have the right words
12 to describe what that makes me feel. You know, I'm
13 really grateful and humbled by what -- what the judge
14 has done.

15 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Okay. It sounds
16 like gratitude might describe it. So we got that. Um,
17 then we have about 14 different documents from you, um,
18 written by you. Um, we have a US parole plan, a parole
19 plan for Armenia, a relapse prevention plan, which we
20 sort of discussed, um, a crime impact statement, a
21 letter of apology to the Arian family, a remorse letter
22 to Turkey. You have a report on Martin Luther King.

23 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yes.

24 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** We have all those
25 documents which we'll consider in deliberations. Um, we

1 have, um, I think that the relapse prevention plan was
2 kind of a noteworthy because it dealt with your triggers
3 and how you would deal with those. Um, and that was
4 helpful to see. Um, we also have documents which
5 describe how you dealt with the, uh, the letter of 2012
6 the (inaudible) letter. Um, you have an explanation
7 letter, I would call it, um, where you describe, uh,
8 what happened with that letter. You felt like in your
9 explanation, you mentioned that they -- they
10 misrepresented you as a terrorist in the header. Um,
11 and, uh, you also explained your current attitude toward
12 political violence. You also have a document describing
13 the notes. Basically it's notes on the progress of
14 addressing the concerns of the letter of 2012 and
15 journal notes on the letter of 2012. So basically you
16 describe your thought process before you finally wrote
17 the explanation letter in those two other documents. We
18 have, um, letters from you to various editors of various
19 newspapers.

20 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yes.

21 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** To, uh, support
22 (inaudible) solutions to the Armenian concerns. Um,
23 there was a letter to the editor of Ash Barez.

24 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Ash Barez, yes.

25 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Yeah. Letter to the

1 editor of courier in support of house resolution 296. A
2 letter to the editor of, uh, I'll just spell it out. N-
3 Y-E-G-Y-U-N-K, in support --

4 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Oh, Nyegyunk, that's new
5 life.

6 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Yeah.

7 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yeah.

8 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Yeah. It's spelled H-Y-E and
9 then second word is G-Y-A-N-K.

10 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Yeah.

11 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Sorry for the interruption.

12 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Excuse me. That means --
13 that's Hye Gyank. That's Armenian life.

14 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** All right. Um, and
15 then I was gonna ask you were they published, but I
16 think your attorney just gave, uh, recently gave me
17 actual published letters.

18 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** One of them is published in
19 this one.

20 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** (inaudible) yeah.

21 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** And one of them you
22 try to get it published but they rejected it.

23 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Uh, we had made attempts to get
24 the -- the regret and reconciliation letter written to
25 Hiaasen Vore published in ACG magazine, but they just --

1 they didn't publish it. There's that -- that's the
2 confirmation letter.

3 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Okay. Well, so
4 that's helpful. Then we have a comprehensive risk
5 assessment by a former BPH analyst, Richard Hayward to
6 consider in our deliberations. So, um, those actually
7 are all the documents -- supporting documents that I
8 noted. Quite a few. Um, I think they show that you
9 have a pretty good parole plan set up if I may be so
10 bold. Um, is there any one of those documents you want
11 me to make particular note of or anything you want to
12 say about --

13 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Anything you want to add?
14 Like, do you want to say anything about like this or do
15 you want to make a comment about anything or --

16 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, I'll just in general
17 say Commissioner that I'm glad I wrote it. I'm glad
18 that I put --

19 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** What? Tell them what.

20 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** About all the letter, about
21 the -- I mean, the letter I wrote to the Hiaasen Vore,
22 the military's newspaper, I'm glad I wrote that. I'm
23 glad I wrote the letter to the Turkish government and --
24 and, uh, and you know, just, you know, I feel like, you
25 know, I -- I somewhat feel at peace for doing that. I

1 should have done this a few years ago. You know, that
2 I'm glad and thankful that Commissioner Barton, uh,
3 raised -- brought this issue up, you know, you know,
4 forward to me and -- and you know, and directed me to
5 write it and I'm glad he did it then I've -- and I'm
6 thank him for it and I'm glad that I did it.

7 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Okay. So what's the
8 rule that you live your life by today, if you can -- if
9 you can state --

10 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Peace and peace and mind my
11 own business.

12 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Okay. Uh, I'll give
13 it back to Commissioner.

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Thank you. All
15 right, so I'm going to turn to the comprehensive risk
16 assessment created by Dr. Mesia. It's dated October 14,
17 2019. The doctor is of the opinion that you do meet
18 criteria for other specified personality disorder with
19 antisocial features. I'm on page 10 of the
20 comprehensive risk assessment. The doctor notes in the
21 current interview and in BPH hearings since he wrote the
22 letter, and we are referring to the -- to the, um, the
23 letters, 12 and 13 letters. Um, he has stated his deep
24 regret for writing the letters and that his opinions
25 have changed in so far as, while he is thankful that

1 Armenia has a military, he does not identify with such
2 and has no role in supporting it. However, it is
3 difficult to ignore the passion with which he identified
4 with Armenian soldiers and impossible to know with
5 certainty that his views on the matter have changed so
6 significantly in a span of just six years, seven years
7 now. Right? Um, and we've talked about that a little
8 bit here today.

9 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** It's here.

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** The doctor notes
11 that you have not evidenced any violent behavior or
12 received an RVR in approximately two decades, which has
13 significantly lowered, um, uh, the significance of those
14 items. Doctor goes on to say on the next page, um,
15 despite his denouncement in the current interview of
16 utilizing violence and problem solving, the possibility
17 of lingering identification with groups known to utilize
18 violence indicate this items -- this item remains at
19 least moderate -- of moderate relevance to a future risk
20 of violence. And again, we did talk about some of the
21 challenges that your history will present for you in the
22 future. Doctor finds that your PCLR score is far below
23 the mean of North American male inmates and, um, also
24 below the cutoff or threshold commonly used to identify
25 dissocial or psychopathic personality. Doctor goes on

1 to say, um, doctor says, although he consistently
2 reports throughout the interview that he no longer holds
3 these beliefs, the letters from 2012 and 2013 remain a
4 relevant historic factors. The pro-military message of
5 the letters reflect the possibility of lingering violent
6 attitudes. That said, uh, support of the military in
7 and of itself does not necessarily reflect problematic
8 violent attitudes. Um, though taken in consideration
9 with his history, the possibility of such remains. With
10 regards to the clinical factors, um, doctor says, um,
11 your behavior in more -- in, um, in more recent years,
12 um, that you have not found to exhibit any factors that
13 are currently relevant. Um, there's no evidence of
14 recent problems with insight, violent ideation,
15 instability, symptoms of major mental disorder or
16 problems with treatment or supervision. Near the bottom
17 of page 12, doctor says that you do not appear to deny
18 that you continue to get angry. Um, though he denies he
19 becomes angry about political nature of the Turkish
20 Armenian conflict. So I do have a followup question on
21 that. Um, to my knowledge, Turkey has still not
22 officially acknowledged the genocide, right?

23 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yes.

24 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** So what did you do
25 with the anger around that subject?

1 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** I deal with using common
2 sense Commissioner. Common knowledge, just like
3 everybody else deals with anger, just you be -- be, you
4 know, you make good judgment, you know.

5 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** No, no, no, I'm
6 talking about specifically with -- with regards to the
7 fact that Turkey has still not acknowledged that the
8 genocide happened.

9 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yes. Well --

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** I mean this crime
11 was all about your anger towards them on that particular
12 issue, right?

13 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yes. Yes.

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** So what have you
15 done with that anger on that issue?

16 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, I know how to deal with
17 anger is now. I know how to deal with people that has
18 different opinion about it. I know how to walk away. I
19 know --

20 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** I get that, but
21 I'm trying to -- I'm trying to find out how you feel
22 today about the fact that they still have not --

23 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, I'm not --

24 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** -- acknowledged
25 it.

1 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** You know, I think I wish they
2 would do the right thing and acknowledge it, but by not
3 acknowledging, I'm going to let the Armenia and the
4 world United nation and European Union and European
5 council deal with it. It's not -- it's not, you know,
6 I'm not gonna get violent about it. I'm not gonna, you
7 know, curse them about it. I'm gonna let, you know,
8 that -- there's diplomacy. Let them solve the problem.
9 It's something that I'm not going to, uh, uh, you know,
10 base my life on or something that I'm not going to think
11 about every day. And if I get angry about it, oh well
12 I'll go -- just go watch a good movie and it'll be over
13 with, you know.

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** All right.
15 Another question I have for you. Um, you know, when I
16 read through a lot of the materials in the file, um, it
17 also seems to me that a lot of -- a lot of, you know,
18 what you had gone through, um, a lot of your decisions
19 were based on national pride, right? Which we, most of
20 us have national pride. Um, and especially when you're
21 an immigrant in, you know, in someone else's country.

22 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yes.

23 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** You know, you try
24 to find ways to hold on to your national pride. So have
25 you thought of ways that you can maintain your national

1 pride without violating the rights of others?

2 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Absolutely. Yes. I have
3 Commissioner. Like Commissioner, there's absolutely
4 nothing gonna happen that's going to make me resort to
5 violence or -- or suggest to anybody that they should.
6 I don't care --

7 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** She's asking you to specify how
8 -- what ways can you or have you had national pride
9 without it becoming violent?

10 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well --

11 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Give her examples.

12 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** By -- by talking Commissioner
13 by, you know, peaceful dialogue by, you know, by -- by,
14 if I have to write letters on -- if I'm (inaudible) if I
15 have to write letters that call on the colon Armenians
16 and Turks to come together and meet and have, you know,
17 it doesn't have to be government official. It could be
18 just the communities in this country and -- or -- or in
19 Europe. Just get together and talk and, you know, then
20 they can maybe talk to their government, hey, you know,
21 this happened. You know, we -- you should step up and
22 take responsibility. You know, I have done it, you
23 know, I've taken responsibility and you know, I've
24 admitted my fault and I apologize, you know, if I can --
25 if a 19 year old angry man who was filled with such

1 anger can change their mind and -- and apologize, you
2 know, I'm sure the Turks can do it. They just -- that
3 somebody -- their own people got to do it. And the
4 Armenian people, I think a young Armenians or professors
5 or whatever that could talk to the Turkish professors or
6 community leaders that, you know, let's peacefully solve
7 this. As far as I'm concerned, Commissioner that no
8 matter what kind of anger it is, I know how to deal with
9 it. We get angry on the yard every day. We get angry.
10 But, uh, you know, it's -- it's been 20 years since I
11 had a fight, you know, and you know, there probably been
12 20 different opportunities to fight, but I didn't, I
13 walked away. I just said, I'm sorry, it's my bad. Even
14 if it wasn't my bad, it wasn't -- it wasn't my fault.
15 And you know, I don't -- I don't live my life based on
16 pride anymore and anger like I used to, you know, I know
17 I'm a mature man. I make good decisions, Commissioner.
18 I don't get like write-ups when somebody cusses me out,
19 I say, well, have a good day. When officers tell me
20 don't sit there, I don't sit there, you know, it's out
21 of bounds or whatever. You know, I respect authority, I
22 respect people, I respect rules and -- and when --
23 whether I'm wrong or right when I feel like there is
24 tension going on, something gonna be done, I'm gonna
25 leave, I'm gonna leave, I'm -- I'm gone. You know, I'm

1 not going to be middle of anything. Whether I'm, you
2 know, like I said, I have no pride issue. If I'm wrong,
3 Commissioner, I'm going to apologize. If I'm right, my
4 bad, I'm gone. You know, I'm not going to argue, you
5 know?

6 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** All right. So if,
7 um, you returned to Armenia, what kind of challenges do
8 you anticipate going through?

9 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, I'm going to have a lot
10 of Armenia, you know, there, I mean, helping Armenia,
11 they, you know, there's work, there's apartment to life.

12 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** But what
13 challenges would you anticipate?

14 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, maybe there is some
15 hard line, maybe people would come to me and say, oh,
16 you are my hero, our hero. You did 38 years in prison
17 and you know, we look up to you, I'm going to say no,
18 no. Take that somewhere else, I'm not a hero. I'm
19 ashamed of what I did and it's in my papers and I'm
20 going to try to get -- get the rest of them published
21 even though the newspapers, they haven't published the
22 all of them yet. I'm going to put that I'm not a hero,
23 I'm ashamed of myself. And earlier Commissioner, you
24 asked me the question about did I ever think what
25 Armenia felt about my crime, I thought you said Armenia.

1 And the reason I said that I didn't because when this
2 crime happened, Armenia was in the Soviet Union and they
3 were completely blocked off from the media. But Susan
4 told me that you might have also meant the Armenian
5 people. Well, I embarrassed the Armenian people too,
6 Commissioner because Armenians historically are known as
7 being -- being the victim, being persecuted and being
8 murdered. And -- and -- and -- and you know, because of
9 what I did, now Armenia -- Armenian people are seen as
10 violent and who assassinate Turkish diplomats, so I
11 deeply embarrassed them, you know, and I made them look
12 like they're violent and I sincerely apologize to them
13 too because they're my victim too. So I -- I want to
14 add them to my victim list and I deeply embarrassed my
15 family too. You know, my family doesn't like coming to
16 prison every day. You know, my nephews and nieces, they
17 were all born while I was in prison. You know, they --
18 they -- I hate -- I mean, I don't hate, but I don't like
19 seeing them come and visit me in prison and you know,
20 they're embarrassed by it, you know? So they -- they --
21 they -- I want to add them to my victim list too. You
22 know, I'm sorry I misunderstood your question earlier.

23 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** That's fine. All
24 right. Doctor finds that you represent a low risk for
25 violence. So at this time I'll take clarifying

1 questions. Ms. Ingalls.

2 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INGALLS:** Thank you. Is
3 the inmate still engaged to, I think it was Mary in
4 Armenia?

5 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Are you still
6 engaged to Mary in Armenia?

7 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** No. I mean --

8 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Are you engaged?

9 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Do I know anybody?

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** No. Mary

11 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Are you engaged to Mary?

12 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Oh, while we would -- would -
13 - I mean, I want to --

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** You're still
15 engaged to her?

16 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yeah, well, I told her I want
17 to marry her, but -- but at the same time Commissioner,
18 you know, we haven't met personally, but I don't know
19 what might happen, so you know.

20 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Okay. All right.

21 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INGALLS:** And what kind
22 of work does Mary do in Armenia?

23 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** It was in the
24 record. I read that in the record. What kind of work
25 does she do?

1 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Oh, oh, she -- she works in a
2 museum, like a Smithsonian in Armenia.

3 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Yes. That's
4 right. Yeah, yeah.

5 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yeah, she's a -- she's a,
6 like she, you know, and you know, uh, what do you call
7 archeologist. She writes books about things they might
8 find, you know, like coins and stuff. She's an
9 exponent. She also does write articles about Armenians
10 that mostly were, uh, persecuted by the Stalin and
11 killed in the gulags and stuff. So she does their
12 biographies and stuff.

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** So do you -- do
14 you think of her as being involved politically in
15 Armenia?

16 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Commissioner, I talk to her
17 every weekend. She doesn't even pay attention what --
18 she hardly pays attention what goes on in -- in
19 politically. She just concerned about the economy and -
20 - and the work she does. She's like the least political
21 person I know.

22 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** So with the --
23 with the, um, with the newsletter that you were getting
24 or the -- the newspaper, she was the one that was
25 sending that to you, right?

1 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** She sent me a couple of them,
2 yes.

3 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Okay. So how did
4 you come to -- to have her send those to you? Did you
5 ask her for them or did she suggest it?

6 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** No, I first there was another
7 girl that used to write me and she sent me a couple of
8 them.

9 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Okay.

10 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Then I read then. Then I
11 told her about it. She said she could, you know, if I
12 wanted that, she could send me a couple once in a while
13 and I told her okay.

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** All right.

15 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INGALLS:** In regard to
16 getting those newspapers, had you told prior Boards that
17 you got them every two weeks? Had the inmate told prior
18 Boards that he had gotten them every two weeks?

19 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Well it's in the
20 letter as well. In his letter.

21 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INGALLS:** So was it, uh,
22 did the inmate get them every two weeks or just a couple
23 of them as he says today?

24 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Commissioner, there was like
25 three or four occasions that -- that the -- not the

1 newspaper itself, but the -- the -- the -- this female,
2 other female used to put them in envelopes and send it
3 to me. And if I can -- if I can just guesstimate,
4 Commissioner maybe I've seen like 10 issues of the whole
5 paper. The one I was getting like in a span of like
6 three years or something. I haven't got none since. So
7 I never ordered the paper. I did ask her to send it to
8 me. So in total, maybe I've seen eight or 10 of the
9 newspapers in total. That's it.

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Okay.

11 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INGALLS:** Did the --
12 does -- if the inmate knows, does Armenia have other
13 newspapers that were available to be sent to him?

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Do you know if
15 they were --

16 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Objection. Relevance.

17 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** No, I think it's
18 relevant. I'll -- I'll have him answer it. Do you know
19 that there were other -- whether or not there were other
20 newspapers that you could have gotten?

21 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, I do get three or four
22 Armenian newspapers from this area from LA or
23 California.

24 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Okay.

25 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INGALLS:** Uh, it is the

1 Eagle -- does the inmate know whether the ego is part of
2 the ARF symbol or do they have a symbol?

3 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** You may answer.

4 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, I don't know if Eagle
5 is part of it. I mean, I'm not an expert on ARF. I
6 don't know if the Eagle is part of the symbol.

7 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Look at the Board. You're
8 answering the Board.

9 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INGALLS:** During the --

10 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** No, no, you don't need that.
11 Just answer to the Board. Yeah. Yeah. It's supposed
12 to be this way.

13 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INGALLS:** Okay. During
14 the 2018 hearing, uh, the inmate indicated that he felt
15 attacked by the panel. This is at page 256 of the
16 hearing transcript. Does the inmate still feel that way
17 today?

18 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** I didn't hear any of that.

19 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** You have to wait
20 for me. You may answer.

21 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** I couldn't hear.

22 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** You couldn't hear her?

23 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** No, I couldn't hear nothing
24 she said.

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** So the question is

1 at the last hearing you indicated that you felt attacked
2 by the panel and she wants to know, do you still feel
3 that way today about this panel?

4 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** No. No. Absolutely. I
5 don't feel that way about that panel either.

6 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Okay.

7 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** I was just -- I just -- I was
8 wrong in saying that, Commissioner.

9 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Well, why did you
10 say it?

11 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** It was a heated exchange and,
12 you know, like before I have said things in the -- in
13 here, you know, without, you know, as you see I speak
14 before, uh, I don't, you know, I speak too quickly and I
15 drift off topic sometimes. And I just said something
16 that, uh, that -- that the -- I think -- I think that,
17 uh, the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner asked
18 me, uh, uh, why didn't I stop my father from testifying
19 and -- and -- and, uh, that, you know, my father never
20 testified. So when he -- I think it was at that time at
21 that question was the one I felt like I was being asked
22 things that weren't true with, you know, because my
23 father never testified in court.

24 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Well, I can
25 understand that feeling. That's what we do.

1 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yeah. Thank you.

2 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Next question.

3 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INGALLS:** When the
4 inmate talks about working with domestic violence
5 groups, has he researched what groups are available,
6 whether it is here in California or in Armenia?

7 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Yeah. I don't
8 think that one's relevant.

9 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INGALLS:** What actual
10 work does he think he is qualified to do for domestic
11 violence groups?

12 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** You may answer
13 that.

14 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Couldn't hear.

15 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** What kind of work
16 do you think you would be qualified do for a domestic
17 violence group? I mean, he did say that his mother, he
18 -- he experienced it with his mother. So he has that
19 experience.

20 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INGALLS:** Yes. But
21 normally it takes a certain type of training or --

22 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** How would you
23 help?

24 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, I'm not -- I don't have
25 a certificate in it, but I know how to communicate. I

1 know how to ask question and comfort someone. In
2 hospice program, I was a grief supportive, so -- so I
3 know I'm, you know, a lot of people here talk to me
4 every day about their, you know, not every day but about
5 their personal problems, family problems and people pass
6 away, inmates pass away and families, people pass away,
7 just like when my father and mother passed away, I went
8 around talking to people about it.

9 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** All right.

10 Thanks.

11 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Not just outside but also in
12 here.

13 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** She got it.

14 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INGALLS:** Did the inmate
15 or his attorney, I guess, uh, attempt to submit his
16 letter to the California Courier?

17 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Have you?

18 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** I'm going to send them to
19 everybody, Commissioner.

20 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** So you have not
21 attempted?

22 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Oh, no, I -- I send it --

23 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** We have. We attempted with the
24 other two publications, but there was no response.

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Okay.

1 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INGALLS:** And I'm just
2 curious, uh, the California Courier, uh, the editor or
3 whoever it is, is a Sassounian. Is that a relative of
4 this inmate?

5 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Commissioner --

6 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Do you have a
7 relative that --

8 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Let me explain that my
9 brother was Harold Smithsonian. It's the same name with
10 the guy that he's also editor of Courier. His name is
11 also Harold Sassounian. This guy was a human rights
12 advocates at United Nation. He wasn't part of the --

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** But is he a
14 relative of yours?

15 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** No, no. He's not a relative.
16 That's what -- I'm sorry. That's what I was getting to.

17 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Okay.

18 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INGALLS:** All right. I
19 have no other questions.

20 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Thank you. Ms.
21 Jordan, any questions?

22 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** I do, Commissioner. Thank you.
23 Um, Mr. Sassounian, I just want to go back to, um, some
24 issues related to the crime. Um, you know, you were
25 describing the, uh, a conversation that you had with

1 your codefendant, your crime partner, Mr. Saliba,
2 immediately after the crime at a restaurant. And I'm
3 just gonna paraphrase what you said. Um, but you
4 essentially had communicated in that conversation to Mr.
5 Saliba that you felt, you know, essentially justified in
6 what you did and - and that Turkey deserved, um, uh,
7 this -- this act of murder. How do you feel about those
8 statements now?

9 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, I'm ashamed of it. I,
10 uh, you know, I'm ashamed of everything I did, the crime
11 and -- and those statements I did. And I also feel
12 ashamed that -- that in court I didn't man up. I didn't
13 step up and -- and confess my crime at court, you know,
14 tell and took responsibility that, you know, I'm -- I'm
15 ashamed of it then and I don't feel that way at all.
16 And you know, no matter how different the Turkish
17 government, uh, thinks, none of them be -- ever be
18 harmed like that, killed like that, and I am deeply
19 sorry for what I did.

20 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Okay. So would you -- it
21 sounds like you're saying that you've -- today you feel
22 there's no justification for what you did.

23 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** No, absolutely not.
24 Absolutely not.

25 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Okay. And then there is a

1 conversation exchange with yourself and Commissioner
2 Dobbs regarding, um, your conversation also with Mr.
3 Saliba that your intention was that you didn't want
4 anyone else to get hurt in the murder of Mr. Arian.
5 Um, I want to ask you, you know, about the fact that
6 there were many people on the streets, it was a nine-ish
7 in the morning, broad daylight and many individuals were
8 walking by. What -- what is your feeling today in terms
9 of, uh, the -- the impact of your crime on those
10 bystanders in that even if you had not intended to shoot
11 anybody else, that they very well could have been
12 injured or killed? What is -- what's your feeling about
13 that?

14 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, when I said that I
15 meant physically hurt anybody and I know I did that
16 emotionally and I -- and I caused a lot of trauma on
17 their -- in their lives and I hurt them and I'm deeply
18 sorry for that.

19 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** And do you recognize the fact
20 that someone who is completely innocent walking by could
21 have been shot and injured or even killed?

22 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yes. Well, yeah, I'm, um,
23 yeah, that was, yeah. Well, well we -- I did everything
24 I can not to, you know, not to shoot --

25 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** But do you recognize that --

1 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** That it was possible and, um,
2 thank God that -- that -- that didn't happen.

3 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Why do you think you didn't
4 consider it at the time?

5 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** At the time, Commissioner,
6 uh, I was just young and angry and I just -- there was
7 thousand things probably that I should have considered.
8 And I'm sorry to say that I didn't.

9 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Okay. All right. Um, so let
10 me go back to the question earlier that, uh,
11 Commissioner Dobbs posed regarding, you know, the -- the
12 impact of -- of your crime on Armenia. Can you speak in
13 terms of your thoughts on how what you did impacted
14 Armenia's relations with Turkey?

15 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, I believe that I did
16 because, uh, you know, they're, you know, they're not
17 too great with each other already. And you know, Turks
18 can, you know, can say that, you know, you know,
19 Armenians shot our officials and that could be another
20 reason for them not to have a dialogue, you know, and,
21 uh, and then, uh, and so the damage is serious and --
22 and -- and, uh, uh --

23 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** So are you -- so are you saying
24 that your crime in part damaged the relationship between
25 Turkey and Armenia?

1 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Absolutely. It did, yes.

2 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Okay. Uh, now in terms of a
3 peace plan that the, um, that Commissioner Taylor had
4 referenced earlier, do you have any ideas for what you
5 think you could do along those lines, um, you know, post
6 -- post-release, you know, what -- what could you do in
7 terms of a peace plan? What role do you think you could
8 play?

9 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** I could, you know, publicly
10 call, uh, on the Turkey and Armenia to have a dialogue.
11 The thought, try to do all I can whether publicly or,
12 you know, behind the scenes to start to bring the
13 Armenian community and Turkish community together to
14 have a --

15 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Talk to them.

16 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Oh, I'm sorry. I'm sorry.
17 To bring them together to have a dialogue. And, you
18 know, and I hope some might say that they, you know,
19 the, you know, instead of saying, oh, he's a murderer,
20 he killed people, he's the last guy to do it -- to do
21 this, maybe some would say hey, this guy went through
22 the whole thing. And you know, he's a good example
23 that, you know, the violence, those who committed
24 violence, they have remorse and regret and -- and -- and
25 -- and he's a good guy. You know, Moses was a murderer.

1 God gave him a chance, you know, and so that, you know,
2 there could be a, you know, in a way it might be a
3 positive thing that -- that, uh, that for me to speak
4 out in the, you know, to speak about peace and dialogue.

5 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** So do you think you can be an
6 example of that then of a positive, peaceful, nonviolent
7 resolution?

8 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** I hope so. Yes. And I will
9 do my best.

10 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** And do you think there are any
11 specific types of individuals who you might be able to,
12 um, uh, engage about your ideas for peace?

13 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, hopefully, you know,
14 you know, I'm sure Turkey has dozens of human rights and
15 civil rights. Uh --

16 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** I'm referring to in Armenia.

17 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, yeah, in Armenia.
18 Absolutely. I'll do everything I can to, you know, to
19 uh, teach -- preach them --

20 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** No, I'm asking you about what -
21 - what types of individuals that might -- that you could
22 approach.

23 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Like teachers, historians,
24 you know, professors, community service -- community
25 people, you know, the students, you know, everybody

1 pretty much.

2 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Okay. Public elected
3 officials.

4 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yeah, absolutely. Yes.
5 Government officials, if I -- if they listen to me.
6 Yeah.

7 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Okay. And then there was some
8 question earlier about, you know, your anger toward
9 Turkey. So I just want to return to that. You know, in
10 the last year and a half, you've, you know, you've done
11 -- you've submitted a lot of writings regarding, um, you
12 know, this letter to Hiaasen Vore and you know, you've
13 submitted apology letter to Turkey. So what would you
14 say you needed to look at honestly in yourself in order
15 to let go of your anger toward Turkey?

16 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** It's -- it's personal growth,
17 you know, and that the understanding that I was wrong.
18 I keep looking at your computer. I've never seen a
19 computer. That's why I'm -- I'm sorry, Commissioner.

20 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Okay. All right. Stay
21 focused.

22 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** You know, just, uh, now I
23 forgot the question.

24 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** I'm asking what kinds of things
25 have you realized about yourself in the last year and a

1 half since the hearing that, you know, your character
2 defects that have allowed you to, you know, let go of
3 your anger towards Turkey?

4 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, it's the -- is the --
5 is, you know, to -- to, uh, understand that this -- what
6 happened was a long time ago, that this generation of
7 Turks are not --

8 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** No, I'm asking you about you.

9 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, yeah, that, you know,
10 personally that the -- that I shouldn't be angry with
11 this generation, that this generation, you know, that
12 they can, uh, have their point of view and for me is to
13 accept that fact and -- and not be angry at them that
14 let the people who are professionals and -- and educated
15 and have, you know, diplomacy and scales, let them
16 handle it. And as far as me Commissioner, I, like I
17 said, I get angry all the time, but I know how to deal
18 with anger. I know how to walk away. I know how to
19 accept the facts that hey, you know, that this is how it
20 is. And -- and -- and you know, say the serenity
21 prayer, you know then -- and just --

22 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** So aside from anger, are there
23 any other character defects you can identify that were
24 important for you to really look at honestly, in order
25 to deal with your anger toward Turkey?

1 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, one of my defects was
2 that I used to dwell on negative stuff and you know, a
3 lot that I don't do anymore. You know, I am more
4 compassionate and open minded. I'm transparent and I
5 don't judge people. I don't look down on people no
6 matter who they are, you know, um, I'm tolerant and I
7 accept people who they are and whether there is what
8 nationality, politics and religion, whatever they are, I
9 just accept them who they are and to, you know, long
10 time ago it was hard for me to do this, but to me, it is
11 very easy to do now, just, you know, just let people be
12 who they are and I'll be who I am and just respect them
13 and -- and have compassion for them.

14 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Okay. All right. Okay. Just
15 two more questions, Commissioner. Do you -- Mr.
16 Sassounian, you know, there's been a lot of discussion
17 earlier and at other hearings too concerning whether and
18 to what extent the JCAG was involved with your crime.
19 Um, do you think that there's a possibility that JCAG
20 was involved with Saliba and perhaps acting behind the
21 scenes?

22 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** I guess it's possible if
23 somebody make a call and -- and -- and took
24 responsibility, I guess it is possible because I didn't
25 tell anybody about it. So --

1 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Do you think that it's possible
2 that if JCAG and Saliba were acting together without
3 your knowledge that they manipulated you, you know, for -
4 - for their own -- for also their own ends?

5 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, although I'm afraid if
6 I say, yeah, that I might be minimizing my --

7 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Let me -- let me ask you this.
8 What do you understand about the import -- let's --
9 let's just say it's a possibility. What would be
10 important in terms of your awareness of potentially
11 being manipulated by an organization in the future?
12 What -- what should you be on the lookout for? What --
13 what awareness should you have of that or be on the
14 lookout for it so you're not vulnerable to something
15 like that? Whether or not it was going on here or not,
16 but --

17 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yeah. Well, you know, if
18 discussion get -- gets too deep into political,
19 historical stuff and -- and I get any hint of that this
20 person might be suggesting any violence and stuff like
21 I'll call the cops and walk away and let them deal with
22 it, you know, then it's that simple to me.

23 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Okay. And so how else -- what
24 other -- what -- what else do you do to avoid being
25 manipulated by people? I would imagine that that

1 sometimes is something that you encounter in here. What
2 -- what do you do to -- to -- to -- to prevent that, you
3 know, other people trying to manipulate you?

4 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, to be -- be aware of my
5 surroundings, you know, if I sensed any like bad
6 intentions from anybody that they in any way try to use
7 me or manipulate me, you know, just -- just ignore it.
8 Just walk away like, you know, you know, like I'm -- I'm
9 not, you know, I'm not the brightest guy in the world,
10 but, uh, you know, I -- I got enough sense to, you know,
11 understand that what's going on, what somebody might be
12 doing and -- and, you know, just -- just tell them, hey,
13 I'm not, you know, I'm not into whatever you're
14 preaching. And -- and you know, if it's -- like I said,
15 if it's anything about violence, then I'm gonna call the
16 authorities and let them deal with them.

17 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Okay. So the last question
18 then, are -- are you -- is it correct to say that now,
19 you know, now versus when you were a 19 year old, you
20 have much greater awareness and wisdom of situations
21 where someone could potentially be manipulating you?

22 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Well, a great deal, I think.
23 A great deal that, uh, that it's not going to happen.
24 Simple as that.

25 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Okay. All right. All right,

1 no more questions, Commissioner. Thank you.

2 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Thank you. All
3 right. Ms. Ingalls, closing, please.

4 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INGALLS:** Yes. Thank
5 you. Uh --

6 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** 11:31.

7 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INGALLS:** In the
8 interest of time, uh, Commissioners, bottom line is I
9 oppose parole and I would ask to incorporate my
10 statements from the prior, uh, the 2018 hearing of which
11 starts at page 310. As to things that have happened
12 today, uh, the inmate was asked, why do you think you
13 were denied parole last time? And I think that he
14 missed some of the issues that the, uh, prior Board, uh,
15 made and made very pointedly. They had an issue with
16 his credibility, first of all, uh, that first of all,
17 um, that he didn't know about his brother's bombing.
18 They didn't buy at all that he wanted to kill Arian but
19 didn't want to get credit for it. But then on the other
20 hand, he wanted to make a point that Turkey wasn't
21 coming to the table and Arian had lied. So they --
22 they -- that circular or not even circular logic, they
23 didn't buy that at all. Uh, they didn't buy -- they had
24 issues with, uh, his tattoos, which he seems to distance
25 himself. Um, at that prior hearing he said he was

1 worried about killing Americans even though, uh, there
2 was so many Americans nearby. Today, he says it wasn't
3 professional, but he also says that he was being very
4 careful not to kill, uh, other people. He says he wants
5 to -- he didn't want to get caught, but he wanted to
6 make a point. So they really went after the inmate on
7 that and he doesn't really realize today or acknowledge
8 that they had an issue with his credibility, which
9 affects everything. Uh, the letter, uh, so this -- that
10 hearing was in June, 2018 and they beat on the comment
11 or beat on the fact that he has not done anything
12 overtly, outwardly. This has always been an issue in
13 every hearing. This is the third hearing I've done and
14 then prior hearings that the inmate has not done
15 anything outwardly, overtly. Sometimes he was rather
16 cavalier. Well, they can read my transcript if they
17 want. Uh, so why is that important? Because we do have
18 some letters, uh, it appears that he is trying to, uh,
19 follow through. However, if you look at the timeline,
20 those letters are essentially dated November, 2019, uh,
21 shortly after he realizes he's going to have a hearing.
22 Uh, other times -- last time he indicated that he
23 couldn't do this, he would stand behind his lawyers, uh,
24 saying, well, I have to have everything approved by the
25 lawyers. He actually said something that -- to that

1 effect in the papers submitted for today's hearing as
2 well. He will not have a lawyer out there on the
3 streets. He had a very -- and I mean this very
4 heartfelt compliment to Ms. Jordan. She has done an
5 excellent lunch job for her client, steering him in the
6 right direction, however, but for her efforts and the
7 timing, we would not see these letters or anything
8 submitted to, uh, other papers. Last time, uh, 2018 he
9 said he was thinking of submitting something to the LA
10 Times, but he didn't want to do it because he might be
11 blamed if a killing happened because, you know, he
12 submitted something, which again, the Commissioners,
13 that's such crazy logic and what does require not a
14 lengthy hearing -- a lengthy letter like he's written
15 today. A simple statement, I killed, I murdered Mr.
16 Arian. I was wrong. Violence is not the answer. You
17 don't need more than four sentences to get that across.
18 So simple letter, not bring in the politics, not bring
19 in Turkey, Armenia, not bring in house resolution 296,
20 which he did in the letter that did get published, keep
21 the politics out of it, just say I was wrong. And while
22 you're at it, send those letters to Turkey newspapers,
23 send those letters to Turkey media, send the letters of
24 apology to Turkish media if he's really serious about
25 it. He has so many connections and visitors. At the

1 last hearing, he said he had hundred people on his
2 visitor list. He has religious people seeing him. I
3 think he actually had a visitor in October or September
4 of this year. Get the message out to them, ask them to
5 preach at their service next Sunday or whenever,
6 whatever the Holy day is. Apologize. Violence is not
7 the answer. That is in fact a religious principle.
8 Call a radio station. He's done it before. Call
9 fundraisers. There are so many options other than the
10 ones that he went through because of the excellent work
11 of his attorney. There are other Armenian papers as
12 well. And he could get a website. Yeah, I know he
13 doesn't have internet here, but there are people out
14 there, the hundred visitors, the people who contact him,
15 write to him, get a website, have your own and preach
16 the good word. Um, when we're talking about Ms.
17 Jordan's letter, uh, to the Board, uh, again, I made
18 some objections to that. Uh, they objected to the
19 letter of -- by the, um, ambassador from June 27, 2019
20 she makes the point and it's well taken that, uh,
21 Sassounian didn't make those connections. We're
22 referring to some of the, uh, indications of the
23 continuing violence between Armenia and Turkey,
24 continuing violent acts. When Mr. Sassounian writes his
25 letters, he says there's been no violence. With Turkey

1 and what they have been doing the past few hearings is
2 they continue to show that this is an ongoing problem.
3 This is an ongoing dispute. Violent dispute. There is
4 violence as recently as they put it in Facebook 2019.
5 That is the significance of their -- their part of what
6 they submitted. Uh, we already talked about the, uh,
7 republication of the 2012 letter. So I would refer back
8 to my comments about that, that whether or not the
9 letter is still up there, it is clear that they were
10 acknowledging, uh, Mr. Sassounian's crime on the exact
11 date that it occurred 33 years ago when it was published
12 in 2015. It's longer than now. Uh, further, several
13 other points I would like to make. Uh, the CRA makes
14 specific comments that cause me concern. The Board, uh,
15 the Commissioner, you've already indicated what those
16 comments are. Uh, however, I'll just repeat a few of
17 them. It is difficult to ignore the passion with which
18 he identified with Armenian soldiers and impossible to
19 know with certainty that his views on the matter have
20 changed so significantly in the span of just six years.
21 I think we've seen today how passionate he is about
22 that. He can't help but bring into the discussion, you
23 know, the -- the genocide, uh, what happened to his
24 people over a hundred years ago. Uh, and this was
25 repeated throughout the -- the CRA. Um, so I will not

1 dwell on that. When we're talking about, uh, doing --
2 he's going to make amends. He's going to do it in the
3 form of domestic violence. I realize that the
4 Commissioner felt that he had experience about that, but
5 that was when he was 19. And that does take a special
6 skill and there does not appear to be that he has any --
7 investigated any groups that are in Armenia that he
8 could work with, actually gotten the tools to do that.
9 Does he even understand the circle of violence in
10 domestic violence? So he speaks in generalities when he
11 says what he's going to do for amends. The same with
12 the peace, uh, uh, situation or working with peaceful
13 organizations. He talks in generalities. There is no
14 research done to say, yeah, there's this organization, I
15 want to be a part of it. Can he do that on the internet
16 here? No, he can't probably. However, uh, he has so
17 many resources, so many family members. Again, an
18 excellent attorney. Uh, so it is possible that his
19 people could be doing that. The Armenian church.
20 There's -- I could come up with all kinds of ideas just
21 right now sitting here. Um, so they'll -- those are my
22 main points, uh, that I would like to make today.
23 Bottom line, people do not think he's suitable for
24 parole basically because he has waited so long since
25 2018 to do these letters. Why not do them right after

1 the hearing? As soon as he got the transcript, sit
2 down, write, I was wrong. I murdered him. I'm sorry,
3 four lines, not house resolution 296 to ensure that it
4 gets into the paper and acknowledge, hey, we were right
5 still bringing politics into it. So simple, not done
6 until November 2019, basically yesterday. So for all
7 those reasons, I would oppose parole. Thank you.

8 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Thank you, Ms.
9 Ingalls. Ms. Jordan.

10 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Thank you, Commissioners. Well
11 --

12 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** 11:40.

13 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** I think that it -- it's ironic
14 that the district attorney thinks that she knows how to
15 counsel someone who's not her client. You know, the
16 criticism that he wrote a lengthy letter really is
17 shocking to me because he took the time and the effort
18 to write a heartfelt, thoughtful letter that address
19 various aspects of what he had written. If he had just
20 tossed it off, oh, I'm sorry, I should have never
21 written it. I'm not a hero. I'm not a murderer.
22 That's it. Then it would have been meaningless. It
23 would have been empty. And the reality is, is that what
24 he wrote demonstrates to this Board that, and I'm
25 quoting Justice Felix Frankfurter here in the case of in

1 re Elkins, wisdom too often never comes and so one ought
2 not to reject it merely because it comes too
3 late. The law in the state of California is -- under
4 Elkins and Lee is that evidence of parole suitability is
5 evidence of parole suitability regardless of how recent
6 it is. And I have made this argument many, many times
7 to the Boards over the years and they too frequently
8 disregarded in re Elkins and in re Lee. Any factor
9 indicating parole suitability is evidence of suitability
10 regardless of how recent it is. And you know, I'm -- I
11 -- I find it really, you know, troubling that there's
12 sort of this implication that my client only wrote these
13 letters because he has good legal representation. You
14 know, he has every right to consult with his own
15 attorney before he submits something for mass
16 publication. And he did that because he wanted to be
17 conscientious of the fact that what he was putting out
18 there in the world was not going to be an issue, was not
19 going to incite anyone or trigger anything in anyone who
20 is going to be reading it. And he has every right as
21 the -- as the, um, inmate to consult with counsel, you
22 know, and as my client talked about it and also as it's
23 documented in the process that he went through to
24 address the Board and the governor's concerns, the
25 journal notes that he submitted shows that he didn't

1 just toss this letter off and throw it out there. He
2 actually took time to really dig into what happened at
3 the last parole hearing to better identify the concerns
4 and the issues that Mr. Barton had because Mr. Barton
5 engaged in a much lengthier and in depth conversation
6 about that letter then really had ever been discussed
7 before. Uh, and I think that that is really what got
8 him thinking and diving into, okay, let me really look
9 and see here. Because obviously there were things that
10 occurred in that hearing that really triggered him, uh,
11 to -- to move forward, uh, with those letters. I really
12 don't understand the relevance of referencing the last
13 Board's, um, denial, uh, the -- their basis for denial,
14 uh, because the issue is whether he's suitable today.
15 Is there an issue of credibility? Mr. Sassounian has
16 been extremely honest over the years about his crime.
17 There is absolutely no evidence, not a single shred of
18 evidence in the record that he knew anything about his
19 brother's activities related to a bombing. There is no
20 evidence whatsoever, not a shred of evidence that his
21 brother was involved in Mr. Sassounian's crime. There's
22 really no evidence whatsoever that Mr. Sassounian was at
23 all engaged with JCAG. I mean, you know, I find it very
24 interesting. I suspect that even if they were involved,
25 it's clear that Mr. Sassounian didn't know about it

1 because it's somewhat odd that Mr. Saliba escaped, but
2 Mr. Sassounian didn't. So if he had escaped, he may
3 have had help from JCAG. They clearly didn't help my
4 client. If my client had been associated with JCAG and
5 had known about involvement, then they would have helped
6 him escape too. He didn't escape. They -- they -- they
7 -- if they were involved, their plan was probably to let
8 him take the fall for it while they got Saliba out. But
9 irrespective, there really is no evidence that he was
10 involved with this organization or that organization is
11 involved. And more importantly, my client doesn't have
12 to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that they weren't
13 involved. It's plausible that they were not involved,
14 but when they found out about it, they wanted to take
15 credit for it because they knew that it would, you know,
16 it would raise their standing amongst their followers so
17 that -- that explanation is equally as plausible. Um,
18 in terms of, you know, the whole thing about tattoos,
19 you know, look, you -- this panel I know has had many,
20 many, many prisoners come before them who had gang-
21 related tattoos. That's the most common thing you've
22 seen. And that doesn't make them currently dangerous.
23 He spoken very honestly about what the tattoos are, why
24 he got them, when he got them. You know, the question
25 is, is there evidence now that makes the -- that

1 indicates that those tattoos reflect a current
2 association with some kind of gang or radicalized
3 organization? Well, there is no evidence of that. He
4 has no gang relationships. There has been -- there's
5 been absolutely no evidence presented ever that he has
6 any ties to radicalized organizations. And believe me,
7 you know, the office up in Sacramento that investigates
8 these things, the Office of Correctional Safety sure
9 would be on it and conducting investigation if they for
10 one moment had even just an inkling of a feeling that he
11 was radicalized. The DA's comments that these other
12 people that Mr. Sassounian knows, these religious
13 leaders and -- and his hundreds of visitors should be
14 the ones to get this word out, uh, as she calls it, uh,
15 of peace. That's not their responsibility. Mr.
16 Sassounian has done that. He's done that in this
17 hearing. He's done that with the letters that he wrote,
18 politics, his letter to (inaudible) and those other
19 publications were all about why he was so wrong and how
20 he handled trying to get the Turkish government to
21 recognize the Armenian genocide and how the individuals
22 who went to Adam Schiff and spoke and expressed their
23 concerns that that's the way to do it. And he rec --
24 that's what that piece was about is his recognition that
25 that type of civic engagement is what makes a

1 difference. Not what he did. So calling radio
2 stations, you know, setting up a webpage. Look, he's a
3 prisoner, you know, he can't have a cell phone. He
4 shouldn't even really have a Facebook page. He doesn't
5 want to attract that type of attention because then the
6 district attorney and the Turkish government would just
7 simply turn it around and say, well, you're just trying
8 to promote yourself as a hero. And I want to say
9 something else too. Mr. Sassounian has really put
10 himself out there to take responsibility for this crime
11 and -- and really adamantly admit to the fact that he is
12 not a hero. He is a murderer. When you know, the
13 reality is, is that many Armenians still have a lot of
14 feelings about what Turkey has done. It's a known fact.
15 I mean the Turkish government can deny it till the end
16 of time, but even, you know, our members of Congress
17 overwhelmingly really recognize that it happened and so
18 have nearly every other country in the world. So you
19 know, he is sort of standing apart from and in
20 opposition to many people who are still upset about that
21 by coming out and saying, no, Turkey was my victim. No,
22 I did hurt them. I did impact, you know, their Foreign
23 Service officers, their ability to conduct themselves in
24 the, um, in the world arena. So, you know, lastly, I
25 just want to say that, you know, there was a question

1 about why, how can the panel be convinced that he's not
2 engaging the types of thinking and behaviors, you know,
3 related to the Hiaasen Vore letter. Look, he's had no
4 violence since 1998. He has no gang affiliation. He's
5 56 years old. He never wrote to any publications before
6 those 2012 and 2013 letters and he's never written
7 anything like since. He's only written a letter of
8 reconciliation condemning what he wrote. So it's an
9 anomaly. It's an anomaly out of a history that is for
10 the most part been violence free, crime free since 1998.
11 That was his last 115. He has stated today I am not a
12 hero. There was nothing heroic in what I did. There's
13 nothing heroic in murdering a human being. I am not a
14 hero. I am a murderer. That's exactly what I would
15 preach. Hero's find -- find diplomacy, dialogue and
16 communication. So -- and the last thing I want to say
17 is that it's really clear from his parole plans, one
18 thing that stands out to me in his relapse prevention
19 plan is a fact that what's really different now is that
20 he recognizes the ability to ask for help if he needs
21 it. You know, to go to the people who are going to give
22 him the kind of support so that he doesn't fall back
23 into old ways of thinking and behaving and that he has a
24 level of empathy that comes across in his letter to
25 Turkey, in his letters to Mr. Arikan and in his document

1 regret and reconciliation. So I would ask that the
2 panel find Mr. Sassounian suitable today. I think that
3 he has earned it. He has done everything that the Board
4 has asked and more, and he has demonstrated an actual,
5 genuine, authentic change in terms of the way he views
6 Turkey, the way he views his crime, and the way he views
7 what it is that he wants, what kind of example he wants
8 to be from now on, and whether he gets out of prison or
9 not. And with that, I would ask that the panel find him
10 suitable. Thank you.

11 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Thank you, Ms.
12 Jordan. Mr. Sassounian, would you like to give a
13 closing statement?

14 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Yes. Uh, first of all,
15 Commissioner, I wanted to say that, uh, I'm deeply
16 ashamed of my crime for murdering a human being like I
17 did. Nobody deserves to be treated like that. I'm
18 deeply sorry to Mr. Arikan and his family and the
19 government of Turkey and the Turkish people everywhere.
20 That what I did was a shameful and immoral and I
21 sincerely apologize for what I did. I want to -- the
22 point the DA was making about why I waited this long to
23 write letters, Commissioner, I've been writing these
24 letters Commissioner for months that you know, you and
25 Commissioner Roberts and everybody here probably can sit

1 and easily write the letter in an half an hour. But not
2 me, because I'm -- I'm not that intelligent. I'm not --
3 I'm not great at writing. I did -- I repeatedly -- I
4 wrote -- Susan would tell you that I wrote each one of
5 these letters like five, six times. I corrected myself
6 (inaudible) some issues to -- talked about it too long
7 and I left out other things. I did it, rewrote it,
8 rewrote it, you know, and then until I came out with the
9 final three, four letters that I wrote. So this wasn't
10 something that I just sat down and wrote it in half an
11 hour or an hour or a day or two. And the point that the
12 DA is making that I could have just wrote four sentences
13 and it would have been over with. If I had done that
14 Commissioner, I'm pretty sure she'd be still talking
15 about it, that I just made it simple and didn't mean it.
16 Well I meant every word I say and I mean it. It was for
17 -- for years now. And the reason that I -- another
18 reason that I haven't written long time ago,
19 Commissioner, like every parole hearing that I was
20 stated before that I was worried that if I had public
21 letters that -- that some people could misunderstand
22 that and I didn't want, you know, to do that. So these
23 are -- these are the letters. I mean it. I mean it
24 from the bottom of my heart that -- that, you know,
25 these are not just because Commissioner asked me to do

1 it because I believe that he was right, I should, that
2 he was right in doing it. And I mean (inaudible) and
3 like Susan says, I've said it before, you know, I never
4 -- no Commissioner had talked in depth, detailed in that
5 depth before and I agree with it and I'm glad I wrote it
6 and I feel much better for doing it. And also last of
7 all, Commissioner about -- about my suitability today, I
8 think the bottom of this is one question, am I violent
9 today? Am I gonna be violent in the future? And there
10 is no way that ever happening no matter what issue it
11 is, no matter what -- how angry I got, no matter what --
12 what issue it is, what nationality or dispute on the
13 yard or whatever, it is never going to happen,
14 Commissioner. I -- I have learned my lesson long, long
15 time ago that -- that violence is -- is -- is nothing
16 that -- it is not something that could be excused. What
17 I did is unexcusable and I sincerely apologize for what
18 I did to everybody that I ever hurt and I hope that this
19 panel will find me suitable today because I know that
20 the violence is going to be something that will never,
21 ever be part of my life and I will never -- you will
22 never come to deal with this commission -- Commissioners
23 with regret for finding me suitable and thank you,
24 Commissioner.

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Thank you sir.

1 Time is 11:54. We're going to recess for deliberations.

2 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Off the record.

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R E C E S S

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1 **CALIFORNIA BOARD OF PAROLE HEARINGS**2 **D E C I S I O N**3 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** On the record.

4 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** We're on the
5 record. Today's date is December 27th, 2019. The time
6 is now 12:59 PM. This is the decision in the sixth
7 subsequent parole suitability hearing for inmate Harry
8 Sassounian, CDCR number C as in cat 88440. In this
9 decision, we must determine Mr. Sassounian if you
10 continue to pose an unreasonable risk to public safety,
11 and a denial of parole must be based on evidence in the
12 record of your current dangerousness. The law requires
13 us to give great weight to the mitigating effects of the
14 diminished culpability of youth as compared to adults,
15 the hallmark features of youth and any subsequent growth
16 and increased maturity in reviewing your suitability for
17 parole today. To reach our decision today, we relied on
18 your central file, the comprehensive risk assessment,
19 the additional documents submitted during the hearing,
20 um, other written responses received from the public.
21 This panel decided to remove -- well actually the Board
22 removed the letter from Phillip Reager and this panel
23 did not consider or rely on it in reaching our decision
24 today. We also did not rely on or consider the

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1 certified translation obtained by the Board but only
2 because the C-file already included three other
3 instances where the same letter was translated and
4 submitted, um, and accepted as evidence by prior panels
5 and that was in 2015, 2016, and 2018. We also
6 considered your testimony during the hearing today, sir.
7 This panel did not rely on any confidential information
8 in reaching our decision today. Based on the legal
9 standards and all the evidence considered in this case,
10 we find that you do not pose an unreasonable risk to the
11 public safety and therefore you are suitable for parole.
12 There are some aggravating factors in your case, sir.
13 Um, when we look at your record, we see that, um, your
14 conduct in committing this crime showed an inability on
15 your part to effectively manage discourse and conflict,
16 uh, without resorting to violence. In this crime you
17 chose to kill before considering other alternatives, um,
18 of getting your point across. After the crime, you then
19 rejoiced. Um, and it took you years to come to full
20 terms with the devastating impact of your choices. Your
21 conduct was cold and it was callous and showed a
22 complete disregard for the many innocent people that
23 were affected by this crime. You also have had serious
24 misconduct while you've been incarcerated and though
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1 there has been none since 2001. We did find however,
2 that those aggravating factors, um, are outweighed by
3 factors that we find mitigate your risk for violence.
4 We note the comprehensive risk assessment found that you
5 represent a low risk for violence, which means that you
6 pose a non-elevated risk relative to other long-term
7 offenders. Your prior -- prior criminal history was
8 minimal and you did not have any juvenile record. The
9 comprehensive risk assessment does not identify risk
10 factors that remain currently relevant for you, but
11 instead identified some future challenges that still
12 exist for you, which this panel discussed with you
13 during the hearing. We find that you have a good
14 awareness of what you're likely to be faced with upon
15 your return to the community and that your current age
16 and the skills that you have developed, uh, should allow
17 you to manage them in a reasonable manner. Regarding
18 your institutional behavior, again, your last RVR --
19 serious RVR was in 2001. And since that time, you have
20 continued to show that you can manage conflict without
21 resorting to violence. This was certainly not your
22 condition at the time when you committed this crime.
23 You have clearly demonstrated positive change over the
24 last 35 years when we look at your entire record. And

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1 in particular, since your last hearing, we have no doubt
2 that the majority of your change occurred well before,
3 um, this last hearing. But the steps that you have
4 taken since that time, um, provides further evidence of
5 your commitment to operating without violence and your
6 commitment to take a critical look at yourself and take
7 the necessary steps to right the wrongs that you are
8 responsible for. This panel was not concerned by the
9 timing of your letters to the editors of the various
10 publications. We get it, that your situation requires
11 much consideration. The cautious approach that you have
12 taken was not lost on this panel, um, and we appreciate
13 that since you made many previous decisions including
14 your crime and your decision to write to Hiaasen Vore
15 for, um, in the first place that, um, showed that there
16 was not much thought before you acted. So we believe
17 that this cautious -- cautious approach will serve you
18 well going forward. We find that you do have concrete
19 realistic parole plans for both the US and for Armenia,
20 um, that they include stable housing, many options for
21 stable housings -- housing in both places, uh,
22 prospective employment in both places, prosocial
23 supports, uh, you have realistic plans to manage any
24 risks that might come up for you, including your plan to
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1 seek counseling if needed in Armenia. And again, we did
2 discuss, um, many of the challenges that you would
3 likely be faced with upon returning there. Um, and this
4 panel is satisfied that today you possess the tools to
5 operate without resorting to violence. In addition, as
6 is required by law, we did give great weight to the
7 youth offender factors that we found present in your
8 case. At the time of this crime, we do note that parts
9 of your brain were not yet fully matured, which resulted
10 in a lack of impulse control and an inability on your
11 part to think to avoid risk. In this crime, you and
12 your crime partner planned the crime. Um, yet still we
13 see signs of youthful immaturity in that you did not
14 think of the fact that you were not disguised in any
15 way, that you used your own car in committing this
16 crime. The execution of the crime showed a great deal
17 of immature thinking. And your background showed that
18 you were also subjected to a negative environment where
19 you were exposed to extreme violence back in Lebanon,
20 the atmosphere in your home, um, also contributed to
21 your thinking in that the family and many Armenians
22 struggled and likely still struggle with the devastation
23 caused by the Armenian genocide. This environment
24 clearly affected your thinking. Because of your age at

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1 the time, you had limited control over your environment.
2 You did not have the ability to just pick up and remove
3 yourself from your home environment or from the people
4 that you found yourself surrounded by. You also clearly
5 had difficulty weighing long-term consequences. Also at
6 the time of the crime, you exhibited hallmark features
7 of youth, uh, which resulted from your incomplete brain
8 development. Again, your actions showed a great deal of
9 immaturity in your thinking and in your decision making.
10 As I've already discussed, you clearly had an
11 underdeveloped understanding of your responsibility for
12 your actions and what could result from your choices.
13 And so as a result, that led to your poor decision and
14 for a very long time led you to minimize the full impact
15 of your conduct. We also note from the record that you
16 were also more vulnerable and susceptible to negative
17 influences and outside pressures including familial and
18 peer pressure. This panel considered whether there was
19 relevant and reliable information of your membership in
20 justice commandos. And while there was some
21 circumstantial evidence that could suggest that, we find
22 that it is also plausible that you were purposely
23 excluded from that organization's involvement in this
24 crime, thus leaving you in the dark. We do note that
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1 your crime partner was older, um, slightly older, but he
2 was older and that he was the one who obtained the
3 weapons, that he fled the country shortly after the
4 crime while you drove your own car and, uh, you were
5 rightfully apprehended and held accountable for this
6 very awful crime. So we find that you were exposed to
7 deviant peers. Um, and we find that this helped or
8 contributed to your deviant behavior and your awful
9 choices that day. Your actions and decision demonstrate
10 a significant amount of recklessness and heedless risk
11 taking. Because of your age at the time, you did not
12 have the ability to understand the dangers of your
13 action to yourself and to others. And that was clearly
14 apparent through the claim that you didn't want to harm
15 anyone besides the victim. Um, this crime actually did
16 place many, many innocent victims in harm's way and has
17 resulted in lasting, unspeakable harm still today. You
18 therefore demonstrated an inability to assess and
19 appreciate risks and consequences, which made you
20 substantially less susceptible to coming up with
21 alternatives. Um, and again, this is consistent with
22 hallmark features of youth. At the time, you were 19.
23 Um, we do know that youth are more capable of change
24 than adults and that your actions as a youth are, uh,

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1 less likely to be evidence of irretrievable depraved
2 character than had you committed this crime as an adult.
3 Looking at your conduct in prison, we do find that you
4 have demonstrated an increased ability to change. We do
5 see evidence of subsequent growth and maturity. You
6 have engaged in reflection on your conduct. Um, and we
7 see that that has happened incrementally over time. You
8 have made, uh, significant attempts to really think
9 about the reasons for your conduct and the impact. And
10 that was evident in your discussion with this panel
11 today. You have demonstrated maturity in judgment. Um,
12 we see evidence of impulse control today for you and we
13 see that in your prison conduct. There is evidence that
14 you are not associated with negative peers. Your record
15 is devoid of any gang activities or indication that you
16 are drawn to negative or -- negative peers or political
17 organizations or radicalized group or anything. There's
18 absolutely no evidence in your record of any of that.
19 You clearly stated here today that you are not a
20 follower and your conduct in prison shows that. Your
21 growth also has resulted in some positive institutional
22 programming including educational, vocationally. You
23 have excellent work records, um, and your conduct
24 clearly shows -- conduct in prison clearly shows growth
25 **HARRY SASSOUNIAN C-88440 DECISION PAGE 08 12/27/19**

1 on your part. Of significance to this panel was your
2 attempts to clear up the impact of not just your crime,
3 but the impact of your letter, um, that you wrote --
4 letters that you wrote in 2012 and 2013. Um, again,
5 this panel is not so concerned about, you know, when you
6 waited to get the letters published. Um, but what we
7 see is evidence that you are given -- you're giving
8 serious thoughts to how your, your actions are perceived
9 by others. And that's rightfully so. Given that this
10 crime, um, affects so many people and the fact that you
11 recognize that, um, your conduct can be perceived as
12 others as, um, you know, something that's admirable.
13 Um, even though we have evidence here today that you
14 clearly understand that, um, nothing that you did is
15 admirable. So this panel saw those areas of growth in
16 you and this panel is assured by the evidence that, um,
17 you have made the clear choice to take a different
18 approach to resolving conflicts that remain, uh, between
19 Turkey and Armenia. Anything to add, Commissioner?

20 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Yeah, I concur. Um,
21 from the point of view of the record, which I looked at
22 real closely, I did want to mention that you had very
23 good parole plans. Um, you had, uh, while incarcerated
24 received training in eight different vocations, you'd

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1 held seven jobs with laudatory reviews. You, um, as far
2 as transitioning to the outside parole plan wise, you
3 had letters offering housing on five different
4 institutions and individuals both in Armenia and the
5 United States. You've had 10 different letters offering
6 jobs. Six in the United States, four in Armenia. You
7 had a mental health professional in Armenia to help you
8 if you had mental health issues. Um, you had 12 letters
9 of moral support, five from church letters, seven from
10 family members, one from the judge in your case, your
11 original case. You had written a number of documents,
12 um, including parole plans for Armenia and the United
13 States. You had a relapse prevention plan, which is,
14 um, probably the most important document you provided.
15 And the most important thing you probably said in there
16 is, um, you said, um, I will stay aware of the platform
17 that my language and thoughts create and endorse to
18 possible violence. I will continue the path of peace
19 and dialogue. You said a number of -- you wrote a
20 number of things in there which I thought were, uh, very
21 important to, uh, to remember and, uh, keep in mind out
22 in the community. Uh, this is a good guideline for you
23 to follow. So keep that in mind. Um, also you'd
24 written all these letters to the editors of various

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1 publications endorsing peaceful resolution. You
2 explained in, uh, some of them why you wrote the letter
3 of 2012 and what it really meant. Um, so basically your
4 parole plans are solid, very solid. Um, your
5 programming should be mentioned. 17 programs, seven at
6 least which involve dealing with violent situations in a
7 proactive, prosocial way such as alternatives to
8 violence, anger management, uh, no tears. Um, you've
9 written your relapse plan of course, um, for political
10 violence, which is very important. It's not just any
11 kind of violence. Um, so with that, I'll give it back
12 to Commissioner.

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER DOBBS:** Thank you,
14 Commissioner. All right, so based on all of these
15 findings, sir, this panel finds that you do not pose an
16 unreasonable risk to the public safety. And
17 accordingly, we find that you are suitable for parole.
18 Our decision is not final, it must still be reviewed by
19 the Board. They have 120 days in which to do that.
20 After that, the governor has an additional 30 days to
21 review this decision. If any changes are made during
22 that review process, you'll receive those in writing.
23 If you are released from prison, you will be subjected
24 to all general conditions of parole required by law, as
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1 well as any special conditions of parole imposed by the
2 division of adult parole operations. In addition, this
3 panel makes the following additional special conditions
4 of parole. Um, we do know that you will likely be
5 returned to Armenia, but in case that doesn't happen, we
6 are ordering that you participate in a transitional
7 housing program. You've identified Francisco Homes,
8 we're fine with that. We're ordering that you have no
9 contact or communication with the family members of your
10 victim. And finally, we're ordering that you do not
11 actively participate in, promote, further, or assist in
12 any disruptive group. So with that, I want to thank
13 everyone for their participation today. Time is 1:21
14 and we're adjourned. Good luck.

15 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** Thank you Commissioners. Thank
16 you.

17 **INMATE SASSOUNIAN:** Thank you very much.

18 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:** Off the record.

19 **ATTORNEY JORDAN:** I'll be out in a minute.

20

21 **A D J O U R N M E N T**

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THIS TRANSCRIPT CONTAINS THE PROPOSED DECISION OF THE BOARD OF PAROLE HEARINGS (BOARD) ANNOUNCED AT YOUR RECENT BOARD HEARING AND IS PROVIDED TO YOU IN COMPLIANCE WITH PENAL CODE SECTION 3041.5, SUBDIVISION (A) (4), AND CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 15, SECTION 2254. THIS PROPOSED DECISION WILL BECOME FINAL WITHIN 120 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THE HEARING AS REQUIRED BY PENAL CODE SECTION 3041, SUBDIVISION (B), UNLESS THE BOARD NOTIFIES YOU IN WRITING BEFORE THEN THAT THE PROPOSED DECISION HAS BEEN MODIFIED, VACATED OR REFERRED TO THE FULL BOARD, SITTING EN BANC, DUE TO AN ERROR OF LAW, ERROR OF FACT OR NEW INFORMATION PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 15, SECTION 2042. THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR HAS AUTHORITY TO REVIEW THE BOARD'S DECISION AND AFFIRM, MODIFY, OR REVERSE IT PURSUANT TO PENAL CODE SECTIONS 3041.1 AND 3041.2.

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DECLARATION OF TRANSCRIBER**

I, HANNAH AVERETTE, as the Official Transcriber,
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In the matter of the Life)	CDC Number: C-88440
Term Parole Consideration)	
Hearing of:)	
)	
HARRY SASSOUNIAN)	
_____)	

SAN QUENTIN STATE PRISON

SAN QUENTIN, CALIFORNIA

DECEMBER 27, 2019

08:32 A.M.

were held as herein appears. Further, this transcript
is a true, complete, and accurate record, to the best of
my ability, of the recorded material provided for
transcription.



Hannah Averette
December 31, 2019
Dictate Express
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