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A Real Salute to Our Values

Letter to the Editor
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PRESIDENT BUSH, in his recent speech to the nation, urged Americans to wave their flags in a July 4 tribute to our troops abroad (Page A1, June 29).

Today is also an opportunity to reflect on values that have defined our nation, such as the rule of law, the Bill of Rights, and political accountability.

One may ask whether the Iraq war and continuing occupation, the indefinite incarceration and abuse of prisoners at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo, and the "rendition" of suspects to countries that routinely torture prisoners honor those values.

Our failure to demand accountability for such lawlessness is earning the United States the contempt of people around the globe. This should give us pause amid today's celebrations.

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