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Guantanamo Isn't a Hotel

Letter to the Editor
Boston Globe
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REGARDING "Protesting too much on 'gulag' " (op ed, June 10), I used to think of Amnesty International as an advocate for rights of those imprisoned for their beliefs, for whom even one day of detention is unacceptable. For those who have committed actual crimes or armed activity (as opposed to nonviolent political action), a different standard applies.

Guantanamo Bay detainees are not there for distributing anti-Bush materials; if that were true, Michael Moore would be there. They are being held for opposing US armed forces on the field of battle. While there are limits to how US military personnel may treat detainees, the popular post-9/11 definition of "torture" has been expanded to include anything and everything that the detainees find unpleasant, including the treatment of books belonging to detainees, when such treatment leaves the detainees themselves unharmed.

If one blindly accepts that all that is unpleasant or offensive is torture -- presto! -- you have your gulag.

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