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## **Germany Center Stage**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR  
International Herald Tribune  
January 26, 2006

As a young German who believes in democracy and human rights, I congratulate our new chancellor, Angela Merkel, for criticizing the United States ("Merkel criticizes jails like Guantanamo Bay," Jan. 9). At last, she said what many Germans have been thinking for a long time by saying that "detention centers like the one at Guantanamo Bay should not be allowed to exist indefinitely."

It was long overdue that somebody criticized U.S. actions, which are anything but democratic and humane. But I was disappointed that she, as many politicians before her have done, said that her comment reflected only her opinion. It is sad that there is nobody out there in the world who has the courage to stand up to the American government, except for the Osama bin Ladens. Instead of remaining silent, we should react immediately to the American misdeeds in the same manner we have reacted to Al Qaeda's crimes.

*Jutta Haggemiller, Munich*