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McCain: Guantanamo Captives Deserve Trials

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Knight Ridder
June 20, 2005

Arguing that "even Adolf Eichmann got a trial," Republican Sen. John McCain said Sunday that the Bush administration must establish a system to try and perhaps free suspected terrorists from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba — even if they turn around and attack the United States.

"Some of these guys are terrible, terrible killers and the worst kind of scum of humanity," the Arizona senator said on NBC News' "Meet the Press" about the 520 men, from dozens of nations, who have been swept up around the globe in the war on terrorism.

But "they deserve to have some adjudication of their cases," McCain said, despite a "fear that, if you release them, they'll go back and fight against us. Balance that against what it's doing to our reputation throughout the world and whether it's enhancing recruiting for people to join al-Qaida and do bad things to the United States of America."

The Bush administration says the U.S. prison camp in Cuba is humane and that the captives are Taliban or al-Qaida members or sympathizers.

McCain is emerging as a voice of conscience and nuance on what to do about the 3-year-old prison complex, which has been condemned by human rights groups as mistreating prisoners.

A veteran Navy pilot who spent more than five years as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam's "Hanoi Hilton," McCain agreed with former presidential candidate Ross Perot — who worked to improve the treatment of American POWs in Vietnam — that reports of abuses at Guantanamo could become an incentive to treat future U.S. captives brutally.

"We will not have as high a moral ground the next time we are in a conflict and Americans should become prisoners of war," McCain warned. "And it worries me; it keeps