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Prisoners Are Presumed Innocent

Letters to the Editor
New York Newsday
February 3, 2006

The writer of "Prisoners are 'ruthless animals,'" [Letters, Jan. 28] needs to be reminded of an American ideal we all should have learned in basic civics. Convicted felons may be "ruthless animals" but, until proved guilty, prisoners are presumed innocent. Until now, both liberals and conservatives have always agreed on this principle.

The writer assumes all those who have been imprisoned at places like Guantanamo are terrorists and criminals. Yet, we are told that many, perhaps hundreds, have been released and therefore are not deemed to be "ruthless animals."

Lest we begin to resemble our enemies, those still in custody deserve due process starting with being formally charged with a crime. The writer's quarrel is not with the left but with the Constitution.

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