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Shame of Guantanamo

Letter to the Editor
The New York Times
March 10, 2006

To the Editor:

It is time to end the hideous indefinite detentions in Guantanamo and to end the practice of coercing confessions. How can we "spread democracy" if we act abroad in ways that defy the very freedoms we value for ourselves? Enough!

(Rev.) Jennifer Brooks
Nantucket, Mass., March 8, 2006

To the Editor:

Re "They Came for the Chicken Farmer" (editorial, March 8):

How can the Bush administration continue to argue that the Guantanamo detention camp serves our country's interests in any way?

The camp was set up as an offshore penal colony out of reach of United States laws and unwanted media scrutiny. It has been the site of documented human rights abuses and torture. And some of the prisoners have been shown to be guilty only of being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

The prison inflames enemies and alienates allies. It has been condemned by human rights groups and the United Nations.

Is there any critic, domestic or international, the administration will listen to? Or is the White House so narcissistic that it will admit that Guantanamo was a bad idea only after the country has had its credibility destroyed and its reputation ruined?

Robert J. Inlow
Charlottesville, Va., March 8, 2006