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## Principles of Justice

Letter to the Editor  
New York Times  
May 9, 2006

To the Editor:

Your editorial about the verdict in the trial of Zacarias Moussaoui and the situation at Guantanamo was dead on ("Due Process," May 4). The contrast between a trial in accordance with long-held American standards of justice and the imprisonment for years of hundreds of people, without charges or hearings and with considerable secrecy, could not be more glaring.

Sadly, we are all familiar with other examples of American disregard for due process, human rights and international law that have been justified by our "war on terror."

The United States cannot hope to support democracy and the rule of law around the world while flagrantly violating its own and widely accepted international principles of justice and due process. The tragedy, besides our own loss, is that respect for the rule of law everywhere is critical to ending poverty and armed conflict, and our country has lost valuable currency as its advocate.

I hope that the American legal community, speaking out publicly, loudly and with urgency, will help set us back on the right track.

*Jean C. Berman*  
*New York, May 4, 2006*  
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