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"Freedom of the Press belongs to those who own one."

A. J. Liebling of the New Yorker

January 27, 2002



Commentary

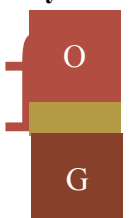
Human Rights Watch

Human Rights Watch seems very concerned with the treatment of the Al-Qaeda captives held in Gitmo. They think that shackles and hoods are inhumane, not to mention the housing of the captives in chain link fences in the balmy air of the Caribbean. They similarly object to the shaving of heads and beards.

Hmmm. Seems we can solve those problems. We can have the Marines set up an outside impenetrable perimeter and let Human Rights Watch run the inside of the Camp. We can pay the bills but HRW can cook the food, build the barracks, and mingle among the captives to make certain they are being well treated. Of course, HRW volunteers will not be permitted to use any of the restraints that they do not wish the Marines to use.

Every day a new supply of HRW people will be permitted to enter the compound, their ranks supplemented with hand-wringers from the British press and other European countries. They will need a fresh supply because the beheaded corpses of the inside staff of the HRW and their supporters will be thrown over the fence every night by the captives.

If ever liberalism can be put to test, this is the opportunity. Here is the chance for those hankie wringers to put up or shut up. These captives have vowed to kill infidels at every opportunity. Now is the time to permit the HRW and their liberal supporters to test the limits of their philosophy.



Human Rights Watch is also in the forefront of the debate over the possibility of torture of captives if the US believes that a captive has the key to future terrorism that could cost innocent civilian lives. This issue has caused the liberal Alan Dershowitz to break ranks and declare that terrorism is a new enemy that requires new rules.

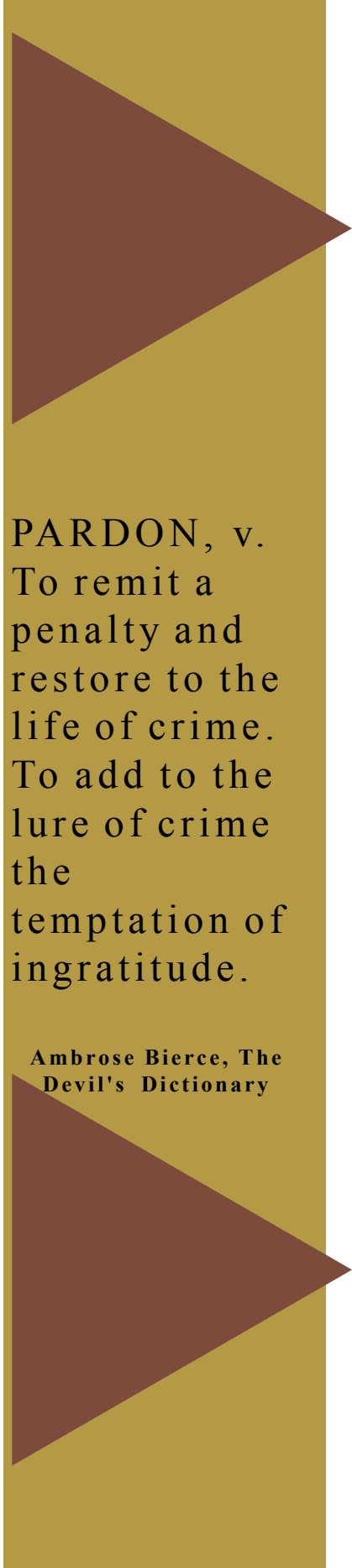
Dershowitz says that if innocent lives can be saved only through torturing someone with foreknowledge, then a court should issue a “torture warrant” so that the harsh treatment he says is going to be done anyway, is overseen by the judicial system. Currently we turn such prisoners over to less squeamish countries, like Israel, and turn our eyes.

Dershowitz posits that if any person’s child is kidnapped and buried with only three hours air, and the police immediately capture the offender, ANY parent would beg for the use of torture to determine the location of the tomb.

Human Rights Watch disagrees of course. Human Rights Watch will not discuss any “ticking time bomb” concept, they simply opine from the safety of an ivory tower.

Fortunately for them, their ivory tower was not in the Twin Towers.

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PARDON, v.
To remit a penalty and restore to the life of crime. To add to the lure of crime the temptation of ingratitude.

Ambrose Bierce, The Devil's Dictionary