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The Continuing Shutdown of Bush Nonsense
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Finally some new Obama developments other than news of Barack's greying hair or Michelle's bare arms. Where did all the time go? On one hand the Obama Administration is dropping a well-known Bush buzz term; "enemy combatants," on the other hand the Center for Constitutional Rights calls it a case of "old wine in new bottles." They feel President Obama still supports detaining them without charge.

Of course the chief purpose President George W. Bush created the moniker was for the purpose of arresting and holding terror suspects who were not on the battlefield fighting against US soldiers or allies or engaged in a hostile act against the same target. For example a Nazi or North Vietnamese captured during WW II or the Vietnam War obviously wouldn't have to be labeled an "enemy combatant" any more than you call McDonald's a hamburger restaurant. It's already self-evident. But when it comes to arresting suspects at an airport as in the case of the Chicago gang-banger Jose Padilla, "enemy combatant" became a bad jacket forced upon certain individuals in Bush's shopping mall of lies.

What Obama is bringing is a reversal of the right to hold detainees from the president's wartime power back to Congress and the International laws of war (War Powers Act, Geneva Convention). Although this won't mean a change in the immediate term for detainees, there is a light at the end of the tunnel for many of them. In the long-term there is the anticipated Guantanamo Bay shutdown and the Obama Administration's investigation into the CIA torture tapes-many of which were destroyed by the agency-News outlet's note Obama's latest move to drop "enemy combatant" as a continuation of his distancing himself from the former Bush Administration. They will be construed in the eyes of the public as terrorist-sympathizer-Obama leaving the nation defenseless by the right and still-not-good-enough by hard critics on the left.

The simple fact is, all of the some 250 prisoners at the US Naval Base in Cuba aren't Khalid Sheik Mohammed; the man who claims he master-minded 9/11. His trial was suspended before a judge the day after Obama's Inauguration. The chief prosecutor of

the Office of Military Commissions (OMC) was directed to seek a continuance of 120 days for Mohammed. All-in-all perhaps Obama should have dismantled the OMC, this is actually it's fifth anniversary. OMC was established back in 2/04 specifically as a vehicle to try terror suspects at Guantanamo. Bush probably came up with this idea shortly after 9/11, he already had his officers selected before word of the OMC made news. You haven't heard much about the commission, in '05 there was a scandal.

One of the underlining reasons for the Gitmo shutdown is the reports of rigged Guantanamo trials through leaked emails by Bush insiders. ABC was said to have obtained 2 emails; one from prosecutor Major Robert Preston to his supervisor which disclosed in part: "after all, writing a motion saying that the process will be full and fair when you don't really believe it is kind of hard." The 2nd email was from prosecutor Captain John Carr and was even more revealing: "You have repeatedly said to the office that the military panel will be handpicked and will not acquit these detainees." Hmmm, sounds like a Buffalo court, what's the problem?

Of course the obvious issue is, if these detainees were really enemy combatants what's the need of rigging their trials? Needless to say both prosecutors were reassigned. What I just gave you was only a brief example of how dirty the Office of Military Commissions was told to play. Spiking Bush phrases like "enemy combatants" or "Axis of Evil" are just the beginning. It's the corrupt apparatus that enables them to be detained and prosecuted that must be eliminated.


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