

"USA TODAY hopes to serve as a forum for better understanding and unity to help make the USA truly one nation."

—Allen H. Neuharth, Founder, Sept. 15, 1982

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Today's debate: Closing Guantanamo



By Mark Wilson, Getty Images

Guantanamo Bay: More than 500 detainees have been held here for more than three years. Four have been charged with crimes, and they are awaiting trial by military tribunal.

It's the policies — not just the place — that matters

Our view:

Tale of two Guantanamo detainees illustrates the dilemma U.S. faces.

To understand the raging debate over the future tv International recently suggested, but the image

Pledge against prostitution harms HIV/AIDS fight

By trying to coerce foreign, and now American, organizations fighting HIV/AIDS into condemning prostitution as a condition for receiving U.S. assistance, the Bush administration has once again dealt a harsh blow to the goals it ostensibly promotes ("To get federal funds, groups that fight AIDS overseas must sign pledge," News, June 10).

When recently forced to make such a choice, Brazil's highly effective anti-AIDS program rejected, to its credit, a demand that it repudiate a key to its success: working directly with groups at the highest risk of infection, including commercial sex workers.

President Bush's global gag rule already prohibits recipients of U.S. reproductive-health assistance from dealing in any affirmative way with the issue of abortion. Denial of aid to groups that reject this unethical condition has damaged the health of vast numbers of women.

This new anti-prostitution crusade will extend that harm to many thousands of people at risk from HIV/AIDS. If enough countries and domestic U.S. organizations follow Brazil's example, might the United States reconsider its imposition of this self-defeating restriction?

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