

The Wall Street Journal - Letters

Tribunals Provoke Many Questions

Keith Allred endeavors to put certain criticisms of the military tribunal system to rest, but he fails to do so ("[In Defense of Military Tribunals](#)," op-ed, April 6). Mr. Allred claims the tribunals would be fair and impartial, but he concludes his article by saying "there is no good reason why unlawful combatants should not be tried" by military courts. Come again? I had thought the purpose of the trial was to determine whether the defendant was an unlawful combatant, but Mr. Allred seems to have presumed guilt before any defense has been presented.

There are other problems as well. What are the jurisdictional limits to these tribunals? For example, can persons be extradited from Latin America or Europe to stand trial at Guantanamo? Can the rules of this tribunal system be rewritten so as to bring American civilians before these military courts? The legal precedents that are being set now are troubling.

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