

Guantanamo fears nonsensical

The U.S. Congress is refusing to allow President Barack Obama to close the Guantanamo Bay prison, the hated symbol among most of the world's citizenry of torture and abuse. The opposition is equally strong in both parties. Apparently, the opposition is driven by fears of a public backlash to having these alleged hard-core terrorists locked up in stateside prisons.

It's hard to know what to make of this controversy. Convicted bombers of U.S. African embassies in the 1990s have already been tried and convicted in a New York court and are currently serving time in U.S. supermax prisons.

We imprisoned dangerous Nazis in the U.S. during World War II without compromising our national security.

Today we have desperate characters — the “Shoe Bomber,” the “Unabomber,” Khalid Sheik Mohammed (the alleged mastermind of 9/11) — locked up in a maximum security prison in Colorado. No one has ever escaped from this prison, or any other of our supermax prisons, for that matter.

Do we really want to continue torturing people and holding “suspected individuals” without trial and without rights? The Declaration of Independence spoke about the rights of “all men,” not just American citizens.

It must also be considered that many locked up at Guantanamo were randomly picked up in Afghanistan right after

9/11, with some sold to the U.S. by our then-ally, the Taliban.

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