



TUESDAY, MAY 03, 2005

What Will Bush Be Remembered For? Torture.

by Michael in New York on [5/03/2005 09:12:00 PM](#)

An **angry editorial** by Eugene Robinson in the *Washington Post* echoes my feelings. Bush thinks he's going to be remembered for liberating the Middle East when in fact his legacy is a debasing of what America stands for by the callous, widespread use of torture.

Some prisoners were "rendered" to cooperating countries where old-fashioned fingernail-pulling is a routine investigative technique. Others have simply "disappeared," as if the U.S. government were some Latin American junta whose generals wear gold-braided epaulets as big as vultures. Most prisoners have been given neither adequate military nor civilian rights. Many don't know why they were arrested or what charges they face.

It may be that these are all terrible people who wish to harm the United States -- we have no way of knowing, because the supposed evidence is secret. But even if they are, this mistreatment is wrong. If the price we pay for complete safety is complete abandonment of our ideals, the price is too high.

How can President Bush preach to the world about democracy, about transparency, about the rule of law, and at the same time disregard national and international law at will? What message can Vladimir Putin be hearing? Or the dictators in Beijing? Or the mullahs in Tehran?

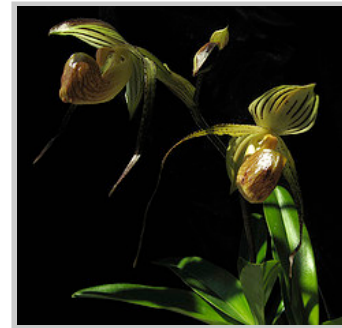
The thing is, history tends to be relentless in pursuit of the truth -- and its judgments tend to be harsh.



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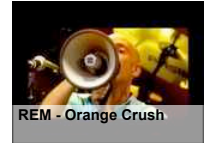
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