

Guantanamo Britons to be released (Wed 12 Jan, 2005)

WARM UPS

CHAT: Talk in pairs or groups about Afghanistan / Guantanamo Bay / justice / illegal detention / detainees rights / the difference between a PoW (prisoner of war) and an 'enemy combatant' ... Change topic / partner frequently to energize the class.

GUANTANAMO BRAINSTORM: Write on the board anything students know about Guantanamo Bay and the US detention camp. Use this as a springboard for students to discuss in pairs or groups.

IF IT WERE ME: Students talk about how they would feel if they had been wrongly arrested and put in Guantanamo Bay for three years without trial and with their human rights left outside the camp.

2-MINUTE DEBATES: Students face each other in pairs and engage in the following (for-fun) 2-minute debates. Students A are assigned the first argument, students B the second. Rotate pairs to ensure a lively pace and noise level is kept:

- a. The Pentagon and US government should be sued for abuse of human rights. vs. No one can prove there was any abuse.
- b. The four men were illegally detained. vs. What were they doing on the battlefield in Afghanistan?
- c. The Geneva Convention says all prisoners of war should be given a fair trial. vs. But these aren't PoWs, they are 'enemy combatants'.
- d. America is famous for being just. Here they failed badly. vs I'm sure they were treated well.
- e. The men should be allowed to go free in Britain now, not be rearrested by the British police. vs But they still may be an international threat.
- f. They should expose any torture or abuse that happened. vs. No use. The fuss will die down and be forgotten. Look at Abu Ghraib.

PRE-READING IDEAS

WORD SEARCH: Students look in their dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... of the words 'camp', and 'release'.

TRUE / FALSE: Students look at the headline and predict whether they believe the following statements are true or false:

- (a) The four British citizens were being held by Cuba. T / F
- (b) They will be released next weekend. T / F
- (c) The four were picked up by the US Army in Afghanistan in 2001. T / F
- (d) They were taken as prisoners of war. T / F
- (e) The British government has spent months of negotiating their release with the United States. T / F
- (f) They have effectively been in a legal no-mans land for three years. T / F
- (g) Their civil rights were at all times respected by the US authorities. T / F
- (h) They will probably be rearrested back in Britain. T / F

DEFINITIONS: Students match the following words with the **most likely** definitions

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| (a) citizens (n) | (a) a person owing loyalty to and entitled by birth or naturalization to the protection of a state or nation
(b) very large towns with many people |
| (b) detention (adj) | (a) to release the pressure and take the stress off of something
(b) being kept somewhere by other people / government while you wait to be tried in a court |
| (c) definite (adj) | (a) exact, clearly stated
(b) being hard of hearing |
| (d) enemy (adj) | (a) a popular american rap singer
(b) one who feels hatred toward, intends injury to, or opposes the interests of another person, or country |
| (e) combatant (n) | (a) a person (usually a soldier but sometimes a boxer, judoist, wrestler...) who fights other people
(b) a special brush used to achieve hair raising effects in a hair salon |
| (f) negotiating (n) | (a) one member of the army stalking another
(b) talking with other people to reach an agreement everyone likes |
| (g) no-mans land | (a) disused land next to train stations
(b) an area of uncertainty, no one knows exactly what the status is |
| (h) deliberately (adv) | (a) to try to set someone free from prison
(b) something done with full consciousness of the nature and effects of the action |
| (i) abused (adj) | (a) to hurt or injure by maltreatment
(b) to do many sit-ups at one time |
| (j) arrest (v) | (a) when the police takes you and holds you under the authority of law
(b) to sit down for a few minutes after a lot of walking |

SYNONYM MATCH: Students match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| (a) citizens | in limbo / Twilight Zone |
| (b) held | exact |
| (c) released | questioning |
| (d) definite | detain |
| (e) delighted | nationals |
| (f) negotiating | set free |
| (g) no-mans land | imprisoned |
| (h) deliberately | ecstatic |
| (i) investigation | intentionally |
| (j) arrest | wheeling and dealing |

PHRASE MATCH: Students match the following phrases based on the article

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| (a) detention | combatants |
| (b) in the next | rights |
| (c) no definite date | few weeks |
| (d) enemy | land |
| (e) The Pentagon issued | their release |
| (f) spent months of negotiating | camp |
| (g) lack of human | investigation |
| (h) no-mans | being set |
| (i) subject to further | activity |
| (j) terrorist | a statement |

GAP-FILL:

Guantanamo Britons to be released

bNE: Four British _____, held for almost three years by the United States at the Guantanamo Bay detention camp, will soon be returned to Britain. British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw _____ that Feroz Abbasi, Moazzam Begg, Richard Belmar and Martin Mubanga will be released in the next few weeks, with no _____ date being set. The four were picked up in Afghanistan in 2001 and arrested as ‘_____ combatants’ on the ‘battlefield’ by the US Army. The Pentagon issued a statement that they were not prisoners of war, which means they could get a _____ trial. All of the families are delighted their sons are returning to England.

fair
confirmed
enemy
citizens
definite

The British government has spent months of _____ their release with the United States. Many in Britain have been unhappy with the lack of human rights _____ the Britain’s, who have effectively been in a legal no-mans _____ for three years. One politician stated, “their civil rights were systematically and deliberately abused.” However, they will not be _____ free when they return to Britain. Mr Straw said they may be subject to further investigation, “Once they are back in the United Kingdom, the police will consider whether to arrest them under the Terrorism Act 2000 for questioning into _____ terrorist activity.”

land
negotiating
automatically
possible
afforded

DISCUSSION:

- a. What do you think of Guantanamo Bay?
- b. What do you think of the release of the four Britons?
- c. Have they had enough after three years, or should they be rearrested in Britain?
- d. Do you think abuse has gone on in Guantanamo?
- e. Is Guantanamo justice?
- f. What do you think of the US claim that those detained in Guantanamo are not prisoners of war?
- g. If you were a family member of one of those detained, what would you be doing now?
- h. If an American citizen was being held by the Iraqi government as an ‘enemy combatant’ what would the US government be doing?
- i. Is America a model of justice?
- j. Other teacher’s questions?

HOMEWORK

- 1. VOCAB EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or the Google search field to build up more associations / collocations of each word.
- 2. INTERNET / WEB LINKS:** Find more information about Guantanamo Bay on the Internet.
- 3. GUANTANAMO POSTER:** Create an information poster on Guantanamo Bay.
- 4. LETTER TO GEORGE:** Write a letter to US President George W. Bush explaining your thoughts on the Guantanamo Bay.

GAP FILL ANSWERS

BNE: Four British **citizens**, held for almost three years by the United States at the Guantanamo Bay detention camp, will soon be returned to Britain. British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw **confirmed** that Feroz Abbasi, Moazzam Begg, Richard Belmar and Martin Mubanga will be released in the next few weeks, with no **definite** date being set. The four were picked up in Afghanistan in 2001 and arrested as ‘**enemy** combatants’ on the ‘battlefield’ by the US Army. The Pentagon issued a statement that they were not prisoners of war, which means they could get a **fair** trial. All of the families are delighted their sons are returning to England.

The British government has spent months of **negotiating** their release with the United States. Many in Britain have been unhappy with the lack of human rights **afforded** the Britain’s, who have effectively been in a legal no-mans **land** for three years. One politician stated, “their civil rights were systematically and deliberately abused.” However, they will not be **automatically** free when they return to Britain. Mr Straw said they may be subject to further investigation, “Once they are back in the United Kingdom, the police will consider whether to arrest them under the Terrorism Act 2000 for questioning into **possible** terrorist activity.”