

The Philadelphia Inquirer
EDITORIALS

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Right path to justice

Attorney General Eric Holder Jr. made the right decision to put accused 9/11 terrorists on trial in federal court. The important step upholds this nation's principles of justice.

Holder announced Friday that the government will prosecute Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the alleged mastermind of the attacks, and four codefendants in lower Manhattan. The trials will take place just blocks from the site where nearly 3,000 people were killed at the World Trade Center.

Critics, including some Republicans in Congress, prefer military tribunals for men whom they consider "enemy combatants." They argue that a civilian trial will unnecessarily put New York City at risk of another attack, and that a military setting would be more secure. They also say that a trial in federal court will give the defendants a platform to vent their anti-U.S. views, and that the trial could become a "circus."

Trying these defendants publicly in a civilian court in New York is the appropriate venue. By contrast, a military tribunal that led to a conviction would fuel belief that the

The decision to try accused attackers in federal court tells the world that the U.S. stands by its values.

convicted in federal court in northern Virginia in 2006.

Both were convicted and are serving life sentences in federal prison.

The concern that a trial in New York might provoke another terrorist attack is the wrong reason to shy away from it. Changing our behavior, or compromising our principles, would be allowing terrorists to win. Large U.S. cities will always be tempting targets for jihadists who have pledged to kill as many Americans as possible.

During the presidency of George W. Bush, the government treated terror suspects as military prisoners. But this nation bargained away some of its principles in the process, torturing detainees at Guantanamo Bay and sending others to secret prisons

TODAY'S QUIZ: PICK THE CAPITALIST.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters submitted for publication on the Editorial Page and at www.philly.com may be e-mailed to inquirer.letters@phillynews.com; faxed to 215-854-4483; or mailed to The Inquirer, Box 8263, Philadelphia, PA 19101. Limit letters to 200 words. Letters may be edited. Writers must include a home address and daytime and evening telephone numbers. For more information, call 215-854-2209.

Media didn't make Hasan

Charles Krauthammer's sarcastic commentary on the mainstream media's reporting of the Fort Hood massacre is tedious ("A deadly excess of delicacy," Monday).

There are real people who made real decisions to sweep Nidal Hasan under the rug. Were their

try to do something through reform and education.

If anything, Auth holds the world's faiths to a higher standard. When innocents are the victims — at the hands of Hamas rockets, Israeli bombs, domestic Islamic terrorists, or pedophilic priests — then we need someone to remind us of what faith calls us to believe in — protecting the innocent.

Walter Bovee
MILFORD PA

put the criminal in handcuffs ("Politicians walk the 'perp walk,'" Saturday)?

Rep. John M. Perzel and the rest of the thieves should be paraded through all of Pennsylvania so that the other prostitute/politicians can see what could happen to them. Political white-collar crime is the worst crime. We elect politicians to serve the people, not themselves.

Charley Curry
Parsippany NJ

FURTHERMORE...

Leadership is not enough; Camden needs money, too

The Inquirer's series on Camden's \$175 million recovery legislation offered a refreshing focus on accountability ("The promise and the price," Nov. 8-11). However, characterizing officials' recent statement that more than \$1 billion would be required to address Camden's woes as mere opinion misses the mark.

Your editorial ("Bailing out Camden," Tuesday) responded that leadership, not money, was the solution. Camden deserves both, but pinning hope on a single person with inadequate funds creates impossible expectations — again.

Camden's 2008 budget was \$153 million. More than half the city's land is vacant, public, or tax-exempt. Subtract required payments to the school district and county, and the city collected only \$18 million despite increased collection rates. Add other municipal revenues, and \$4.6 million in payments in lieu of taxes (the only source of recent revenue growth), and you still don't cover a quarter of the budget.

While not sufficient, private investment is necessary. As the most productive aspect of the recovery, retention and attraction of private investment and employment must expand.

Stephen Singer
Executive director, CamConnect
Camden



TOM GILSON: Self-Photographer not being led in handcuffs into a magistrate's office Friday to be charged with corruption.

Perzel deserved to wear handcuffs

You have got to be kidding! A \$100 million and it's OK to handcuff him, but an elected official and his friends and family steal millions of dollars from the people he elected him and it is wrong to

Good riddance, Lou Dobbs

I was delighted to learn that Lou Dobbs is no longer with CNN. For me, Dobbs' program at 7 p.m. signaled an immediate switch to some other channel — or else the prospect of indignation. Dinner hour, you know.

"Mr. Independent," as he fancied himself, is nothing more than a whining, nay-saying, narcissistic blob of arrogance; a smirky, self-absorbed phony who usually surrounded himself with sycophants whom he called political experts.

We get enough insults to our collective intelligence from the likes of Rush Limbaugh, Glenn Beck, and other far-right extremists, so we can blessedly do without the added pomposity of Dobbs.

Stan Chasin
Washington

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to understand. With haunting case histories of retired players who suffered memory loss, dementia, and depression from so-called post-con-



RON CORTES: Staff Photographer Westbroek watches the closing

Don't blame the messenger