

BANNED GITMO REPORTERS APPEAL

McClatchy provides details of the appeal the outlets for four reporters banned from Gitmo for publishing the name of Joshua Claus have made to the Pentagon.

Arguing that a Pentagon order banning four journalists from covering military commissions at Guantánamo Bay was illegal and unconstitutional, The Miami Herald and two Canadian news outlets appealed on Wednesday.

[snip]

In a letter to Bryan Whitman, deputy assistant secretary of defense for media operations, [David A.] Schulz [who represents the Canadian papers involved] said the law that created the military commissions leaves such decisions up to a judge.

Further, the reporters did not obtain the name of the witness at the hearing, and it serves no military purpose to ban someone from publishing information that's already public, Schulz argued.

"Our position remains unchanged: We did not violate any of the court rules for being at Guantánamo," said Miami Herald Managing Editor Aminda Marques Gonzalez. "I feel confident that once they review the facts that they are going to come to the same conclusion and reverse the order."

As you recall, the order banning the journalists came from the Pentagon, not from the judge in the hearing. I'm glad they're focusing on the heavy-handed role of the Pentagon here.

Though I do hope the Canadians are pressuring the Administration about expelling the most knowledgeable Canadian journalists on the Omar Khadr case.