

Binghamton University

The Open Repository @ Binghamton (The ORB)

Research Days Posters Spring 2020

Division of Research

2020

Self-Expression in Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp

Natalie Schuster

Binghamton University--SUNY

Follow this and additional works at: https://orb.binghamton.edu/research_days_posters_spring2020

Recommended Citation

Schuster, Natalie, "Self-Expression in Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp" (2020). *Research Days Posters Spring 2020*. 82.

https://orb.binghamton.edu/research_days_posters_spring2020/82

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Division of Research at The Open Repository @ Binghamton (The ORB). It has been accepted for inclusion in Research Days Posters Spring 2020 by an authorized administrator of The Open Repository @ Binghamton (The ORB). For more information, please contact ORB@binghamton.edu.

Creative Self-Expression in GTMO

Violations of Human Rights Articles 17 and 19

Natalie
Schuster

Article 17

(1) Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.
(2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.



"Styrofoam Cup." *SchoolHealth.com*,
<https://www.schoolhealth.com/styrofoam-cups-8-oz-25-tube>.

Background

Detainees would scratch poems or short stories on styrofoam cups, and in response, guards were instructed to confiscate and classify them. Subsequently, detainees would be accused of destruction of government property.

Creative writing was only allowed after the Obama administration implemented art classes during the "golden age of Guantánamo." Before then, the only form of writing allowed for detainees was letters to their attorney, and any form of creative writing was immediately classified.

Article 19

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

The deprivation of intellectual property in the form of poetry and writing on styrofoam cups is an infringement of both human rights articles 17 and 19.

Left

A styrofoam cup used to symbolize the cups detainees wrote on and were accused of destroying.

A poem written by detainee Abdulaziz. An example of a work of creative expression now free from interference.

Right

Peace, they say.	يقولون السلام.
Peace of mind?	راحة البال؟
Peace on earth?	السلام على الأرض؟
Peace of what kind?	السلام أي نوع؟
I see them talking, arguing, fighting -	أراهم يتحدثون ويتجادلون ويقتلون -
What kind of peace are they looking for?	ما نوع السلام الذي يبحثون عنه؟
Why do they kill? What are they planning?	لماذا يقتلون؟ ماذا يخططون؟
Is it just talk? Why do they argue?	هل هو مجرد كلام؟ لماذا يجادلون؟
Is it so simple to kill? Is this their plan?	هل من السهل القتل؟ هل هذه خطتهم؟
Yes, of course!	نعم طبعاً!
They talk, they argue, they kill -	يتحدثون ، يجادلون ، يقتلون -
They fight for peace.	إنهم يقتلون من أجل السلام.

"They Fight for Peace" Abdulaziz, *Poems from Guantánamo, the Detainees Speak*.