***Albert Camus***



The French Nobel Prize-winning philosopher and writer Albert Camus was born in Algeria on November 7, 1913 to a parents of mixed Spanish and French descent; he died prematurely in a car accident in Sens, about 75 miles southeast of Paris. In between, Camus was linked to many movements – nihilism, existentialism, and communism – though he seems to have rejected the extremes of each. Camus’ political philosophy might be best described as running a middle ground between progressives and more radical revolutionary forces; while certainly a strong opponent of totalitarianism anywhere, he was wary of the reactionary element inherent in many rebellions. His point of contact with this tribunal hearing is mainly through his extended essay “Reflections on the Guillotine” (1957). Among the many and varied arguments Camus makes against capital punishment, he contends that “retaliation is related to nature and instinct, not to law. Law, by definition, cannot obey the same rules as nature. If murder is in the nature of man, the law is not intended to imitate or reproduce that nature. It is intended to correct it.” Additionally, Camus holds out hope for the rehabilitation of perpetrators which may explain why he advocates life imprisonment – which he views as the worst kind of punishment – over capital punishment: it allows for such future rehabilitation. Camus can be useful in the hearing to establish that the restoration and healing a country needs after a period of human rights violations should not devolve into similar kinds of behavior.

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“Camus In Ten Minutes.” *YouTube*. YouTube, **Feb 13, 2014. Web. 20 Jan 2016.** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ekxXvgbDr3M>**.**

“The only way to deal with an unfree world is to become so absolutely free that your very existence is an act of rebellion.” ~ Albert Camus.

# “PHILOSOPHY - Albert Camus.” *The School of Life.* YouTube, **May 15, 2015. Web. 20 Jan 2016.** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQOfbObFOCw>**.**