**In the context of the War on Terrorism, the distinction between legal and illegal combatants is tactically deployed as part of a larger strategy of derealization - deeming a combatant illegal not only suspends the law for that individual, but also establishes a framework to make the lives of entire populations unlivable.**

**Butler 4**

**Therefore, we begin our discussion with the populations who are deemed unlivable by the larger strategies of the War on Terror - to start with ourselves would simply replicate the ignorance of violence against the Other, which justifies their exclusion from our understanding of the world around us.**

**Thus, there is no better place to begin than with the individuals of Guantanamo Bay, for the suspension of law at Gitmo has created a new form of state sovereignty which allows for racialized population management, biopolitical control, and the reduction of prisoners to bare life. The prisoners of Guantanamo Bay are no longer deemed humyn, but rather, they have become ‘animated flesh,’ ‘legally unnamable and unclassifiable beings,’ who are socially dead.**

**Dillon 13**

**The question of how individuals are selected to be detained at Gitmo begins with the racialized deeming of individuals as dangerous – this deduction need not be substantiated with proof, but rather relies solely on judging individuals as a threat to national security. These populations are thus not regarded as subjects or humyns, and therefore taken unilaterally outside of the jurisdiction of law to be indefinitely held in the name of the War on Terror.**

**Butler 4**

**Our view of life is critical to a different type of politics and society. The question of precariousness must be at the forefront of our discussions otherwise we make war and violence possible. The framework for this debate is a precondition to normative policymaking as it is the only method with which to evaluate our advantage.**

**Butler 10**

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**And, the emotional and physical violence of Guantanamo Bay is further expressed in a passage from Urgent Call, a poem written by Matilde De la Sierra and Jim Manzardo, prisoners of Guantanamo Bay.**

[*we disagree with the authors’ use of gendered language*]

Blood stained and tainted streets,

Desolate villages covered with mutilated bodies,

Despairing women, mothers, screaming,

Disappeared men,

Crying children in search of their mothers,

Hopelessness, nightmares, darkness,

Bitterness, desolation,

Human and architectural destruction.

Listen well. This is called War, Occupation

We call upon the spirits of Segundo Montes, Maura Clark, Victor Jara and Penny Lernoux who lived in the world of the poor and oppressed, and understood what it was to be powerless, to be like Christ.

Let us enter into solidarity with the poor and oppressed and receive the freedom that transcends even death.

People suspected of being terrorists,

Detained, imprisoned, in deplorable conditions,

Tortured, humiliated, stripped of their dignity.

Human beings crying out to be rescued,

To be liberated from Satan’s hands,

Even pleading to be killed,

To be sucked of their very last drop of blood

Listen well. This is called Guantanamo Bay.

*[“Where to Learn More About Guantanamo and Why It Should Be Shut Down!,” http://chicagomassaction.org/g-cmaimages/J11\_ResourceSheet.pdf]*

**[*Brief pause*]**

**And, the violence committed against these people is a natural consequence of our current ideology - by making these populations unreal we have necessitated their extermination - it is through the omission of perspectives that the discourse of the War on Terror plays its violent games - the 1AC refuses to relegate these lives to the sphere of the unlivable – instead, we reject the foreclosure of these lives by opening the possibility of mourning those who are considered ungrievable.**

**Butler 4**

**Therefore, my partner and I affirm the provision of an obituary for those imprisoned at Guantanamo Bay.**

**Our 1AC is an act of affirmation of those who have been negated by the larger application of the legal/illegal distinction that this decision upholds. This affirmation is essential to opening a space for us to grieve for the persons who have been lost in strategies of violence and aggression. This is a specific strategy of criticism which should not be excluded - attempts to restrain our affirmative by placing arbitrary limits on the game of debate is an extension of a conservative strategy which deems what is and is not sayable. Once it has been decided that our 1AC is treasonous, the atrocities we’ve outlined also remain invisible.**

**Butler 4**

**Thus, the 1AC is not a call to State action, but rather one of individual protest and dissent, for when we call upon the State to engage in a revolution for our agency the project always fails. Constant simulation is destructive to the cornerstones of our existence. We instead view the ­­­­­1AC, this very moment, as a political act, which refuses the State, and instead inhabits a discursive space, which refuses to be co-opted and does not lead to violence or martyrdom.**

**Bey 91**

**And, any attempts to bracket off of our protest upholds the state of exception and legitimizes brutal cycles of governmentality**

**Elmer and Opel 8**

**Furthermore, the way that we frame debates is crucial to the implementation of the aff – our questioning is key to the recognition and understanding of the vulnerability of life. Even if they win that the we don’t actually shutdown Gitmo, we create a movement which provides the conditions for a more generalized form of horror and outrage necessary to end all violence – this proves we access spillover.**

**Butler 10**

**Finally, recognizing the violence committed under the War on Terror in Guantanamo Bay will provide an obituary for those who have been destroyed by the War on Terror, and thereby, establish a politics of grief which refuses to foreclose our vulnerability to violence - this opens up a space for an identification with suffering. Voting affirmative is essential to creating a relationship with the Other that is not based on violence or the urge to exterminate.**

**Butler 4**