

PETITION

TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS PARLIAMENT OF CANADA

FOR THE REPATRIATION OF OMAR KHADR

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, submit to the House of Commons:

Whereas:

- Canada boasts of being a country which actively promotes human rights and respect for international law;
- Canada, like the United States, was one of the architects and signatories to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- Omar Khadr is a Canadian citizen;
- Omar Khadr was 15 years old when he was arrested in Afghanistan;
- Omar Khadr must be considered a child soldier under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- Omar Khadr did not receive legal counsel until November 2004, whereas it is internationally acknowledged that the detention of minors must be a last resort, must be as short as possible and that their case must be decided as quickly as possible;
- Omar Khadr has been detained without trial in Guantanamo since 2002 and has been subjected to cruel and inhumane treatment;
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child requires signatories to facilitate the rehabilitation and reintegration of child soldiers;
- Omar Khadr is being detained with adults and not in the camp for minors, in violation of international principles;
- All the nationals of western countries (Great Britain, Germany, Sweden and Australia) detained in Guantanamo, who have all reached the age of majority, have been repatriated by their respective embassies;
- Canada is the only western country that has not pleaded for the only Canadian national detained in Guantanamo;
- Eighteen of the world's most prominent jurists, including the president of the United Nations Commission on International Law and former Minister of Justice of France, Robert Badinter; the Canadian Bar Association and the Bar of the Province of Quebec; members of the British Parliament, of the government of France, of Amnesty International and of Human Rights Watch have all opposed the detention of Omar Khadr, and the United Nations request to attend Omar Khadr's trial in Guantanamo was declined by the United States;
- The inaction of the Canadian government on the case of the child soldier Omar Khadr undermines its international reputation.

We, the undersigned, accordingly call upon Parliament to repatriate Omar Khadr immediately so he may be judged in his own country and by his peers.

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Please return the petition with original signatures as soon as possible to the office of the Member for Papineau, **Vivian Barbot, Room 325, Confederation Building, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6** (postage paid for mail to a Member of Parliament).

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