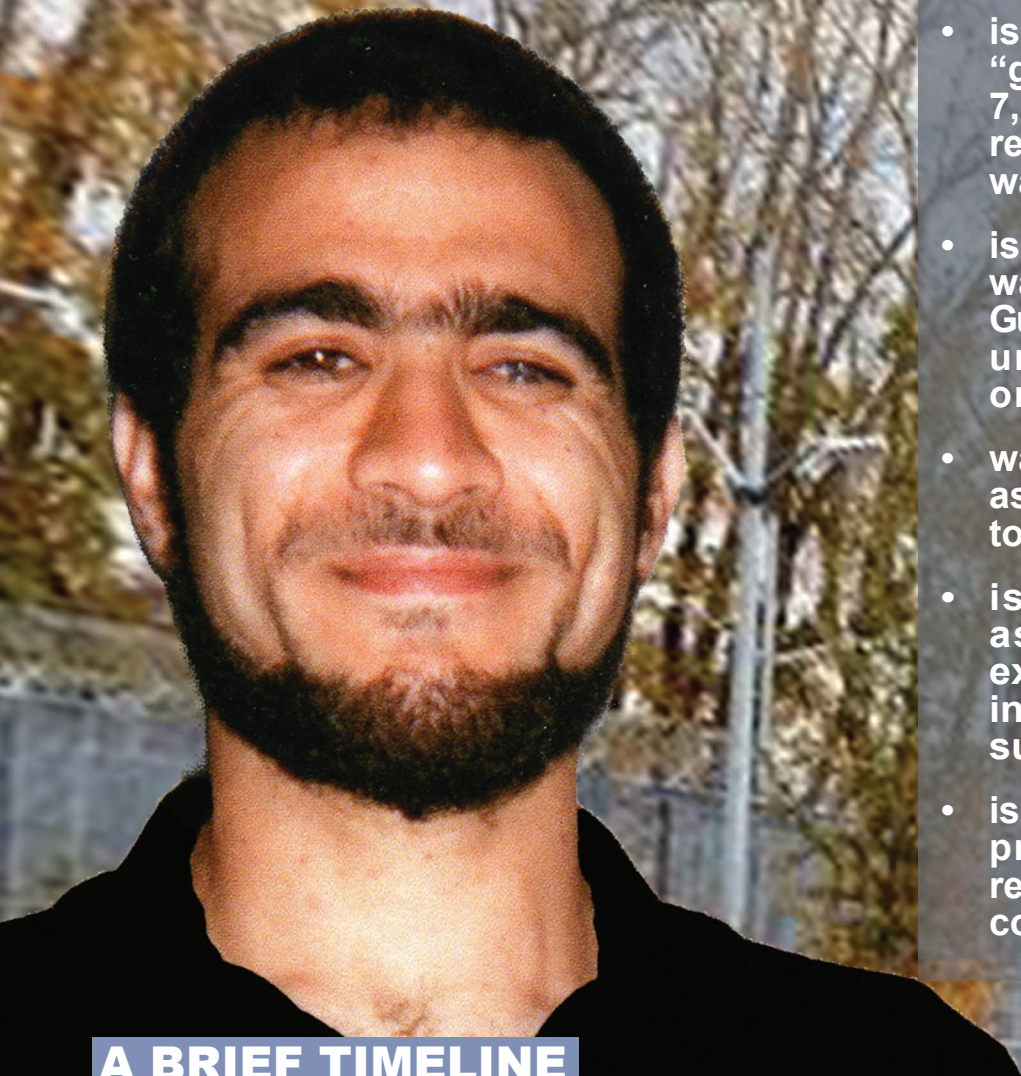


# FACTSHEET OMAR KHADR

## OMAR'S LONG JOURNEY TOWARDS FREEDOM



### Omar Khadr

- is the only person found “guilty” in the death of one of 7,000+ U.S. casualties in the recent Afghanistan and Iraq wars.
- is the only child convicted of a war crime -- by an illegitimate Guantanamo Military Commission unable to determine guilt or innocence.
- was forced to take a plea deal as the only option to end his torture and return to Canada.
- is innocent of all charges as the “crimes” did not exist under Canadian, U.S. or international law. Evidence supports his innocence.
- is the only former Guantanamo prisoner from the West to remain in captivity in his home country, Canada.

### A BRIEF TIMELINE

- **CANADIAN OMAR KHADR (NOW 28) WAS BORN IN TORONTO.**
- **IN 2002, HE WAS 15 YEARS OLD AND LIVING WITH HIS FAMILY IN AFGHANISTAN.**
- **DURING AN ATTACK BY U.S. FORCES IN JULY 2002, HE WAS SHOT IN THE BACK WHEN FOUND BARELY ALIVE UNDER RUBBLE.**
- **HE WAS CAPTURED AND TAKEN INTO CUSTODY ON JULY 27, 2002.**
- **HE WAS LATER ACCUSED OF KILLING A U.S. SOLDIER DURING THE BATTLE.**
- **HE WAS A PRISONER AT BAGRAM UNTIL OCTOBER 2002, AND TORTURED TO FORCE A CONFESSION.**
- **HE SPENT THE NEXT DECADE IN GUANTANAMO PRISON, OFTEN IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.**
- **ON OCTOBER 30, 2010 HE WAS CHARGED AND CONVICTED BY A U.S. MILITARY COMMISSION.**
- **ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2012 HE WAS REPATRIATED TO CANADA AND PLACED IN A MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON.**
- **ON FEBRUARY 7, 2014 HE WAS MOVED TO BOWDEN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION IN ALBERTA WHERE HE REMAINS IMPRISONED.**

# OMAR TODAY

## ONGOING IMPRISONMENT

Instead of granting him freedom and rehabilitation, PM Stephen Harper ensured Omar was incarcerated in a maximum-security institution on his return to Canada. The government continues to meddle in the judicial process by issuing public statements which falsely label Omar as an unrepentant terrorist.

Dennis Edney, who has defended Omar for over a decade *pro bono*, agrees with the Office of the Correctional Investigator that Omar should be classified at a minimum-security level and then released.

“Omar Khadr struck me as a very gentle, caring and courteous human being who does not belong where he is at present.”

- Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Based on good behaviour, Omar was reclassified as medium-security and moved to Bowden Correctional Institution where he has access to some rehabilitation programs in order to earn parole. In July 2014 the Alberta Court of Appeal ruled he must be transferred to a provincial facility, but Omar remains at Bowden.

Although the Government has denied media access to interview Omar, a recent media court challenge argues a constitutional breach of the public's right to know.

## APPEAL AGAINST U.S. CONVICTION

On November 8, 2013, Pentagon lawyer Sam Morison filed an appeal in Washington to have Omar Khadr's Guantanamo conviction overturned since all evidence indicates that Omar did not commit any crimes. In fact, Omar Khadr was himself a victim of an internationally recognized war crime: while badly wounded and lying in a prone position, Omar was shot in the back by a U.S. Special Forces soldier.

## OMAR'S WELL-BEING

Omar is going blind from lack of treatment in Canadian detention. The U.S. attack in 2002 had left Omar blind in his left eye and with shrapnel lodged in his right eye. He was not provided treatment while in U.S. detention to save his sight. Now the vision in his right eye is rapidly deteriorating and without treatment, permanent blindness is inevitable.

With support from a team of dedicated professors from King's University College in Edmonton, Omar was working towards completion of his high school diploma. Due to his eye-condition he is no longer able to read and his studies have been put on hold. In spite of this major setback, his teachers speak highly of his positive disposition and academic abilities.

## STRENGTH OF CHARACTER

Despite the unspeakable abuse and hardship Omar has suffered, he has retained his dignity and is a positive and cheerful person who wishes to live a normal, productive life.

In one of his letters to one of his many friends Omar wrote: "The light of goodness outshines shadows that might be. There are too many good things in this life (as hard as it might be) to worry or even care about the bad things. Things are what we make out of them. Prison can be a deprivation of freedom, or a time to enlighten ourselves. For me it is the latter."

Archbishop Desmond Tutu is among those who advocate on Omar's behalf that his capture and imprisonment are illegal. He spoke by telephone with Omar in July 2014. He said "It is unconscionable that Omar Khadr, following a travesty of a trial, where he was treated as an adult in a vicious kangaroo court, should be languishing in jail" and that "His own country Canada should be an accomplice in holding him in prison. This is an example of a horrible miscarriage of justice and that in a modern democratic state. The Canadian authorities would do their stature much good if they released him immediately."

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND HOW YOU CAN DONATE TO OMAR'S PRO BONO LAWYER DENNIS EDNEY, PLEASE VISIT [WWW.FREEOMAR.CA](http://WWW.FREEOMAR.CA)**