

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
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Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Dear Prime Minister Harper:

Taken into custody by US forces at the age of 15, Omar Khadr's human rights as a minor have never been recognized.

Transferred to Guantánamo Bay in October 2002, he was subjected to interrogations over a three year period without access to legal counsel. No investigation appears to have been initiated into reports of torture and other ill-treatment. While a number of other child detainees were released years ago, Omar Khadr remains in detention under harsh conditions. Now he faces an unfair trial before a military commission. The possibility of being transferred to face a fair trial before a civilian court in the USA seems remote.

Other governments moved to protect the human rights of their citizens by seeking their release and repatriation. But Canada has said that any action on behalf of their citizen in Guantánamo is still "premature".

It is time for the Canadian government to make up for the persistent failure of the US authorities to apply international human rights standards to "war on terror" detainees. Canada should immediately request the repatriation of Omar Khadr and, if there is sufficient and admissible evidence, arrange for a fair trial before a Canadian court.

Yours sincerely,