



# Amnesty International

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The Right Honourable Stephen Harper  
Prime Minister of Canada  
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By Fax: 613-941-6900

July 10, 2008

Dear Prime Minister,

Amnesty International has repeatedly urged the Canadian government to make a request to US officials for the repatriation of Omar Khadr. The urgency of making that request only increases with time. We are writing to reiterate and amplify that request in light of recent revelations.

In particular, we are deeply concerned about the information released today regarding the treatment Omar Khadr was subjected to during interrogation sessions at Guantánamo Bay and the knowledge that Canadian officials had of that treatment. The treatment, which included extensive use of sleep deprivation and use of the disorienting "frequent flyer" practice, amounts to torture and/or ill-treatment, both of which are clearly banned under international human rights law.

It is shocking to learn that as far back as five years ago Canadian officials knew of the torture and ill-treatment Omar Khadr had experienced but did not intervene on his behalf. Instead at that time, much as today, the government insisted that they had received assurances from US officials that Mr. Khadr was being well-treated, in a manner consistent with the spirit of the Geneva Conventions, and that there was therefore no reason for Canada to intervene. Today's revelations underscore how unreliable and hollow those assurances were.

At this time, Prime Minister, Amnesty International calls on the government, without any further delay, to do two things.

First, the request for Omar Khadr's repatriation to Canada must finally be made. Your government's position that such a request is premature and that justice must run its course in the United States is quite simply untenable. As time passes it is injustice, not justice, which mounts in this case.

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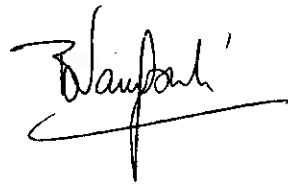
Second, it is vitally important that Canada go officially on the record with US officials insisting that any information obtained during the interrogations sessions that accompanied these instances of torture and mistreatment must be excluded from the military commission proceedings and any other legal proceedings dealing with Omar Khadr. International law is very clear on this point, particularly article 15 of the UN Convention against Torture. Canada must demand that this vitally important human rights safeguard will be respected in Omar Khadr's case, just as it must be in all cases regardless of the circumstances or the seriousness of the allegations or charges. It is not a matter of looking to the presiding judge to rule on the admissibility of this evidence. US officials should not even consider putting it in front of the military commission. Canada must be very clear about this.

We look forward to hearing of a principled and forceful response from the Canadian government in Omar Khadr's case.

Sincerely,



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