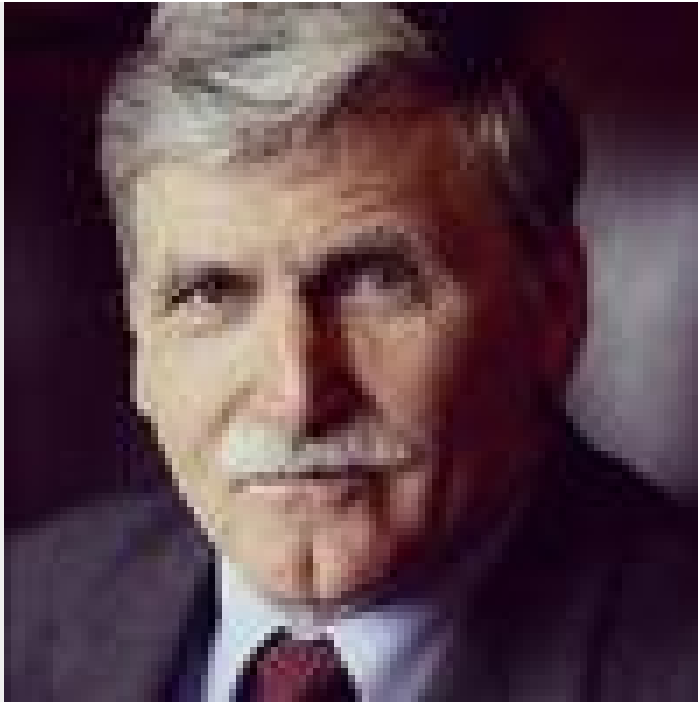
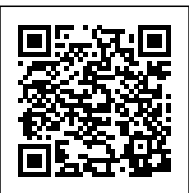


# BRING BACK OMAR KHADR FROM GUANTANAMO

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Category: [Opinions](#)




LGen Honourable [Roméo A. Dallaire](#) , (Ret'd), Senator, July 2012

The case of Omar Khadr—a Canadian citizen and former child soldier—is a stain upon our society and shows a blatant disregard for Canada's obligations under international law. 

During his 10 nightmarish years at Bagram and Guantánamo Bay, Omar Khadr's rights have been violated time and again. He has been denied the right to due process and a fair trial, the right to protection from torture, and the rights stemming from the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol on Children in Armed Conflict.

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After years of dragging its feet, Canada finally agreed to his return in 2010, so long as he served one additional year in Guantánamo. No one forced the government's hand. It made its promise voluntarily. That year has passed, and yet the transfer request continues to gather dust on the minister's desk awaiting his signature. This is simply unacceptable.

Just days ago, Marine Col. Jeffrey Colwell, chief defense counsel for military commissions openly chastised Canada for crippling US efforts to enter into plea agreements: If the US "can't carry through on their end of the bargain, it has a chilling effect on the willingness of others to plead. There was an expectation by all parties involved that Khadr was going to be home last fall. It's July, and he's not."

The Americans have held up their end of the deal. Omar Khadr has held up his end of the deal. Why is the Canadian government refusing to follow through on its commitment?

Enough is enough. Canada must keep its word — and Minister Toews must authorize Omar Khadr's return without delay. A deal is a deal.

If thousands join me, we can force Canada to honour its promise. Now is the time to speak up and spread the word. Please sign this petition and help me bring Omar Khadr home.

LGen Honourable Roméo A. Dallaire, (Ret'd), Senator

## Do the right thing: Authorize Omar Khadr's repatriation without delay

[Sign the petition](#)

Dear Minister Toews,

I am writing to urge you to authorize the repatriation of Omar Khadr without delay—a Canadian citizen and former child soldier held in Guantánamo Bay.

Over the past decade, Khadr's rights have been violated time and again. He has been denied the right to due process and a fair trial, the right to protection from torture, and the rights stemming from the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol on Children in Armed Conflict.

This month marks the 10 year anniversary of his capture as a child soldier. And while Omar Khadr continues to sit in solitary confinement in Guantánamo, what's done is done. We now have an opportunity to do the right thing and bring Omar Khadr home.

In 2010, Canada agreed to his return, as long as he served one additional year in Guantánamo. In the House of Commons, then Minister of Foreign Affairs Lawrence Cannon said that Canada would implement the agreement. Khadr has been eligible for repatriation since November 2011 and yet we have seen no action from the government.

The Americans have held up their end of the deal. Omar Khadr has held up his end of the deal. Now Canada must follow through on its commitment. A deal is a deal. We must honour our word.

I call on you to immediately authorize Khadr's return to Canada.

Sincerely,

