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*Canadian law students and young lawyers for the fair trial and humane treatment of Omar Khadr*

For Immediate Release

Press Release

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## **Supreme Court Finds the Violation of Omar's Rights is Ongoing; Prime Minister Harper Must Provide a Remedy**

A coalition of law students and young lawyers repeated their call for the Canadian government to request the repatriation of Omar Khadr, a young Canadian citizen detained at Guantanamo Bay for the last seven years. Citing the support of the unanimous decision of the Supreme Court released this morning, the Omar Khadr Project demanded that the government take immediate action.

"Guantanamo is history. It's time to bring him home," said Tony Navaneelan, a representative of the Omar Khadr Project.

The Supreme Court, in a unanimous decision, announced today that Canada's practice of assisting in the interrogation and detention of Omar constituted a clear violation of his rights under the Canadian constitution and international law. All members of the Court agreed that "Canada's participation in the illegal process in place at Guantanamo Bay clearly violated Canada's binding international obligations."

The Court found that these violations are ongoing, and continue to this day.

The Supreme Court held that the government is under a constitutional duty to remedy its breaches of Omar's rights. Though the Court left it open to the government to determine which remedy it will pursue, the ruling affirms that repatriation is a remedy that "meaningfully vindicates" Omar's rights and freedoms.

The Harper government has an obligation to take immediate action to remedy the violation of Khadr's rights. "This shouldn't be a political issue. This is an issue of protecting the fundamental human rights of a Canadian citizen. The government should follow the Court's instruction, and do what's necessary to realize Khadr's rights," said Liam McHugh-Russell, an Omar Khadr Project member.

According to OKP member Kate Oja, “the only remedy that can ‘meaningfully vindicate’ Omar’s rights is repatriation.”

The Omar Khadr Project is calling upon Prime Minister Harper to immediately begin negotiations with U.S. authorities to arrange for Omar’s repatriation. Following Omar’s return to Canada, the government should take necessary steps to ensure that Omar is rehabilitated and reintegrated into society.

The Omar Khadr Project is an organization of law students and young lawyers from across the country working for the fair trial and humane treatment of Omar Khadr. They believe that to derogate from the rule of law and respect for human rights, even in the name of national security, is never justified.

Students from 13 law schools across Canada have supported the Omar Khadr Project. Additional information is available at [omarkhadrproject.com](http://omarkhadrproject.com)

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