

Omar Khadr Survey – July 2017

Omar Khadr is a Canadian citizen who was arrested in Afghanistan in 2002 for allegedly killing an American soldier. He was 15 years old at the time. His father, Ahmed Said Khadr, was reportedly a founding member of the al-Qaeda terrorist group, and died in a 2003 shootout near the Afghanistan border.

Omar Khadr spent ten years at the US prison in Guantanamo Bay. While there, he pleaded guilty to several charges and was convicted by an American military tribunal. He has since said the guilty plea was made under duress.

In 2010, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that the Canadian government of the day acted unconstitutionally after Khadr's arrest, and that it is partly responsible for his continued imprisonment in Guantanamo Bay.

He was transferred to a prison in Alberta in 2012 and released on bail in 2015 while appealing his US conviction.

(T) Q1. How familiar would you say you are with Omar Khadr and his story? Would you say you:

Have followed it closely and know a lot about it

Have followed it some, and know a little bit about it

Recognize the name, but haven't followed the story/don't know much about it

Don't know anything about Omar Khadr or his story

(T) Q2. Thinking about Omar Khadr's overall story during these past 15 years, based on whatever you have seen or read about it and on your own general impressions, would you say he was ultimately treated fairly or unfairly?

Fairly

Unfairly

Not sure/Can't say

Q3. After his release, Khadr filed a \$20-million wrongful imprisonment lawsuit, arguing the Canadian government of the day violated international law by not protecting its own citizen. Last month, the Canadian government settled with Khadr, and will offer him a formal apology for its handling of the case, as well as a \$10.5 million in compensation.

Some people say the Trudeau government should have fought the lawsuit and left it to the courts to decide whether Khadr's case had merit.

Other people say the Trudeau government was right to settle the case by offering an apology and \$10.5 million in compensation.

Which statement comes closest to your own view?

[Rotate]

The Trudeau government did the right thing by settling the case and offering an apology and \$10.5 in compensation

The Trudeau government did the wrong thing – it should have fought the case and left it to the courts to decide whether Khadr was wrongfully imprisoned

Q4. As previously mentioned, the settlement is made up of two parts, an apology and \$10.5 million in compensation. Regardless of whether you think the federal government should have settled Khadr's lawsuit or fought it, suppose you were on the government's negotiating committee. Please indicate what you would have offered Khadr:

- Both an apology and compensation
- An apology but no compensation
- Compensation but no apology
- Neither an apology nor compensation

Q5. There has been lots of discussion about Omar Khadr, and different people have made different arguments. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

[Randomize statements]

(T) Omar Khadr remains a potential radicalized threat now living in Canada

(T) At age 15, he was a child soldier and should have been dealt with accordingly

The Trudeau government had no choice but to offer an apology and compensation to Omar Khadr

- Strongly agree
- Moderately agree
- Moderately disagree
- Strongly disagree

Q6. Finally, for our statistical analysis, which party's candidate did you vote for in the 2015 Canadian federal election?

[RANDOMIZE TOP THREE PARTIES (TOP 4 IN QC)]

[ANCHORED]I did not vote

Conservative Party

Liberal Party

New Democratic Party (NDP)

Bloc Quebecois

Green Party

Some other party

Rather not say