

CANADIAN IN GUANTANAMO

Canadians Question Whether Omar Khadr Will Get Fair Trial in Guantanamo

Respondents split on whether Khadr should be repatriated to Canada; women, young adults most sympathetic to his plight.

[VANCOUVER – Jul. 10, 2008] – Canadians remain doubtful that Omar Khadr will receive a fair trial if he faces justice in Guantanamo Bay, a new Angus Reid Strategies poll reveals.

Compared to a previous survey carried out in April 2008, the new poll also points to a more defined split in the views of respondents on the option to repatriate Khadr or leave him to face trial by military commission at the U.S.-administered detention facility.

The public was first introduced to Khadr's story in 2002, when he was arrested for allegedly killing an American serviceman in Khost, Afghanistan. A Canadian citizen born in Toronto—who was 15 when the incident took place—Khadr has spent the last six years imprisoned in Guantanamo Bay. He is scheduled to go on trial on Oct. 8.

In the online survey of a representative national sample, only 29 per cent of Canadians think that Khadr will receive a fair trial in Guantanamo, down three points since April.

Canadians are divided about the best policy option to take regarding Khadr's fate. While 38 per cent of respondents want him to face trial by military commission in Guantanamo Bay (no change from the April survey), another 37 per cent want to repatriate him so he can face due process under Canadian law (down six points from the previous poll).

KEY FINDINGS

- **Only 29% believe Khadr will get a fair trial in Guantanamo Bay; 43% disagree**
- **38% want Khadr to face trial in Guantanamo Bay, 37% would repatriate him to Canada, and 26% are unsure**
- **49% of males prefer Khadr's fate to be decided in Guantanamo Bay, compared to 27% of females**
- **Atlantic Provinces most sympathetic to Khadr's plight (38%) and most in favour of repatriation (49%); Albertans would prefer to let him face trial in Guantanamo Bay (46%)**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From July 2 to July 3, 2008 Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among a randomly selected, representative sample of 1,004 adult Canadians. The margin of error for the total sample is +/- 3.1 %, 19 times out of 20. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of Canada. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

As was the case in April, Albertans are more likely to believe that Khadr would get a fair trial in Guantanamo Bay (34%), most supportive of a policy decision that would see Khadr's fate decided in the detention facility (46%), and least likely to feel sympathetic to his ordeals (22%).

In turn, respondents in the Atlantic Provinces show the most empathy—almost half (49%) want to repatriate Khadr to Canada, 38 per cent say they are sympathetic to his plight, and only 24 per cent believe he will receive a fair trial in Guantanamo.

Once again, men and women have very contrasting views. While both genders are equally sympathetic to Khadr's troubles (31%), men are more convinced that a Guantanamo military trial will be fair (38% versus 20% for females) and much more willing to support a policy that would see Khadr face trial in Guantanamo Bay (49% versus 27% for women).

The age breakdown reveals that, on the whole, young adults are less confident in the fairness of a military trial in Guantanamo Bay (22% versus 28% for the 35-54 group and 34% for those aged 55+) and more reticent to letting Khadr face trial by military commission in the detention facility (29% versus 41% for the other two age groups).

Canadian in Guantanamo

As you may know, Canadian citizen Omar Khadr has spent almost six years in the Guantanamo Bay detention facility, charged with throwing a grenade that killed a U.S. soldier in a July 2002 firefight in Afghanistan. Khadr, the son of al-Qaeda fighter Ahmed Said Khadr, was 15 when the alleged incident took place. Which of these policy options would you prefer in this case?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Leaving Khadr to face trial by military commission in Guantanamo Bay	38%	39%	46%	30%	40%	36%	27%
Demanding Khadr's repatriation to face due process under Canadian Law	37%	36%	27%	38%	37%	37%	49%
Not Sure	26%	25%	28%	32%	24%	27%	24%

Canadian in Guantanamo

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	Gender		Age		
	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Leaving Khadr to face trial by military commission in Guantanamo Bay	49%	27%	29%	41%	41%
Demanding Khadr's repatriation to face due process under Canadian Law	37%	37%	40%	31%	41%
Not Sure	14%	36%	31%	28%	18%

Canadian in Guantanamo

TREND - As you may know, Canadian citizen Omar Khadr has spent almost six years in the Guantanamo Bay detention facility, charged with throwing a grenade that killed a U.S. soldier in a July 2002 firefight in Afghanistan. Khadr, the son of al-Qaeda fighter Ahmed Said Khadr, was 15 when the alleged incident took place. Which of these policy options would you prefer in this case?

	July 2008	April 2008
Leaving Khadr to face trial by military commission in Guantanamo Bay	38%	38%
Demanding Khadr's repatriation to face due process under Canadian Law	37%	43%
Not Sure	26%	19%

Canadian in Guantanamo							
Do you agree or disagree with this statement? – “If he faces justice in Guantanamo, Omar Khadr will get a fair trial”							
	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Strongly Agree / Moderately Agree	29%	31%	34%	27%	28%	28%	24%
Strongly Disagree / Moderately Disagree	43%	43%	41%	48%	45%	38%	48%
Not Sure	28%	25%	25%	25%	27%	34%	28%

Canadian in Guantanamo					
Do you agree or disagree with this statement? – “If he faces justice in Guantanamo, Omar Khadr will get a fair trial”					
	Gender		Age		
	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Strongly Agree / Moderately Agree	38%	20%	22%	28%	34%
Strongly Disagree / Moderately Disagree	42%	44%	48%	40%	43%
Not Sure	20%	36%	30%	31%	22%

Canadian in Guantanamo		
TREND - Do you agree or disagree with this statement? – “If he faces justice in Guantanamo, Omar Khadr will get a fair trial”		
	July 2008	April 2008
Strongly Agree / Moderately Agree	29%	32%
Strongly Disagree / Moderately Disagree	43%	47%
Not sure	28%	20%

Canadian in Guantanamo							
Do you agree or disagree with this statement? – “I feel sympathy for Omar Khadr's plight”							
Region							
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Strongly Agree / Moderately Agree	31%	33%	22%	38%	29%	32%	38%
Strongly Disagree / Moderately Disagree	46%	48%	58%	51%	49%	41%	32%
Not Sure	23%	19%	19%	11%	22%	28%	29%

Canadian in Guantanamo					
Do you agree or disagree with this statement? – “I feel sympathy for Omar Khadr's plight”					
	Gender		Age		
	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Strongly Agree / Moderately Agree	31%	31%	36%	22%	38%
Strongly Disagree / Moderately Disagree	54%	39%	34%	53%	48%
Not Sure	14%	30%	30%	25%	13%

Canadian in Guantanamo		
TREND - Do you agree or disagree with this statement? – “I feel sympathy for Omar Khadr's plight”		
	July 2008	April 2008
Strongly Agree / Moderately Agree	31%	33%
Strongly Disagree / Moderately Disagree	46%	44%
Not sure	23%	22%

Angus Reid Strategies is a full-service polling and market research firm which is a leader in the use of the Internet and rich media technology to collect high-quality, in-depth insights for a wide array of clients. Dr. Angus Reid and the Angus Reid Strategies team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995.

Angus Reid Strategies, along with its sister company, Vision Critical, is now the largest Canadian-owned market research enterprise. In addition to its four offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices San Francisco, New York and London, England. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.

Angus Reid Strategies polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum online panel (www.angusreidforum.com), which is recruited via an industry-leading process that incorporates a randomized, widespread invitation approach and a triple opt-in screening procedure. The panel is maintained through state-of-the-art sampling techniques and frequent verifications of personal identity, contact information, and demographic characteristics. This premier online survey platform presents respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses.

Over the last year, Angus Reid has covered five elections in Canada—more than any other pollster in the country—and the results have accurately predicted the outcome of each of these democratic processes. <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=194>

More information on the way Angus Reid Strategies conducts public opinion research can be found at <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/uploads/pages/pdfs/ARS.ARF.WP.pdf>

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**For more information, please contact
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

**Copies of this poll are available on our website:
www.angusreidstrategies.com**