

RELEASE IN PART  
B6

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**From:** Koh, Harold Hongju <KohHH@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 29, 2012 8:48 AM  
**To:** Sullivan, Jacob J; H; Mills, Cheryl D  
**Subject:** Fw: OMAR KHADR: Omar Khadr is going home to Canada from Guantánamo

Hooray! Thanks for the call to FM Baird!

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**From:** Fried, Daniel  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 29, 2012 08:46 AM  
**To:** Koh, Harold Hongju; Conklin, Maeaan L; Gahan, Kimberly A; Bridgeman, Theresa; Perina, Alexandra H; McLeod, Mary; ringber [redacted] <ringber [redacted]>  
**Subject:** Re: OMAR KHADR: Omar Khadr is going home to Canada from Guantánamo

B6

Good work all around.

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**From:** Koh, Harold Hongju  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 29, 2012 08:43 AM  
**To:** Conklin, Maeaan L; Gahan, Kimberly A; Bridgeman, Theresa; Perina, Alexandra H; McLeod, Mary; 'ringber [redacted] <ringber [redacted]> Fried, Daniel  
**Subject:** Fw: OMAR KHADR: Omar Khadr is going home to Canada from Guantánamo

Gtmo is 1 down!! Yayy!

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**From:** Alan.Kessel [redacted]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 29, 2012 08:40 AM  
**To:** Koh, Harold Hongju  
**Subject:** Fw: OMAR KHADR: Omar Khadr is going home to Canada from Guantánamo

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**From:** Media Monitoring / Surveillance Médias (BCM)  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 29, 2012 07:11 AM  
**Subject:** OMAR KHADR: Omar Khadr is going home to Canada from Guantánamo

Omar Khadr is going home to Canada from Guantánamo;

The Toronto-born man who got to Guantánamo as a teenager was en route to more prison time in his native Canada as of 4:30 a.m. Saturday under a 2010 plea deal, a U.S. military source tells The Miami Herald

By CAROL ROSENBERG, crosenberg@miamiherald.com, 29 September 2012, The Miami Herald  
<http://www.miamiherald.com/2012/09/29/3025662/omar-khadr-is-going-home-to-canada.html>

The United States sent Guantánamo's youngest captive home to a prison in his native Canada early Saturday morning, according to a U.S. military source, ending the decade-long detention of the young Muslim militant who grew from a teenager into adulthood at the Pentagon's prison camps in Cuba.

Omar Khadr, 26, born in Toronto, pleaded guilty to war crimes charges in 2010 in exchange for an eight-year sentence. Under the deal, he was to serve all but a year of it in Canada, where he will be eligible for early release because he was a juvenile, just 15, when he committed his crimes in war-torn Afghanistan.

But the Obama administration was slow to sign off on his transfer and the Canadian government was even slower to design a plan to hold him at home.

Saturday, a military source told The Miami Herald that Khadr was en route to his native Canada as of 4:30 a.m., a secret transfer under way just days after Khadr passed his 26th birthday with a visit from a Canadian diplomat behind the prison's barbed wire. It was not immediately known where he'd be imprisoned but defense lawyers had asked that he get special protections at the federal Canadian lockup because of his notoriety.

U.S. troops captured Khadr, who was near death, in a July 27, 2002 firefight at a suspected al Qaida compound near Khost, Afghanistan.

U.S. air strikes had leveled the compound and as a Special Forces unit assaulted, Khadr admitted in his guilty plea, he hurled a grenade from inside the rubble that mortally wounded Army Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Speer, 28. Medics were able to save Khadr's life, and turned him over to what became a decade of on-again off-again interrogation.

The case of Khadr — Guantánamo's last Western captive — was a source of international debate.

Because he was captured at such a young age, just months into the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan, some called him a child soldier deserving of rehabilitation not interrogation. Psychiatrist Michael Welner, testifying at the Guantánamo war court for the prosecution and paid by the Pentagon, called Khadr a continuing danger and that, while in the U.S. prison camps in Cuba, Khadr was "marinating in a community of hardened and belligerent radical Islamists."

Khadr's lawyers countered with a Canadian-style college preparatory curriculum. While Khadr served his sentence in Guantánamo's cellblock for convicted war criminals, he filled his time with remedial studies designed by a Canadian college professor — literature, physics and videos of "Little Mosque on the Prairie," a popular Canadian TV show about a Muslim community in a fictional prairie town. He also read Shakespeare with his U.S. Army defense lawyer, a tall lieutenant colonel who read Juliet to Khadr's Romeo.

Under the terms of his plea agreement, Khadr admitted to planting landmines in Afghanistan meant to shred invading allied forces. Once captured, and interrogated, he directed U.S. troops back to their location to safely disarm them.

Testimony at pre-trial hearings showed U.S. interrogators saw the 15-year-old as a human intelligence treasure trove because as a child his family had spent time with the family of Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan. His father, killed in Pakistan in 2003, was seen in Canada as a high-level al Qaida functionary who moved his family to Pakistan and Afghanistan in the years before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

One of Omar Khadr's elder brothers, Abdurahman, also spent a short time in Guantánamo as an informant but never saw his kid brother there. Abdurahman is now free in Toronto. With Saturday's transfer, the Pentagon was holding 166 detainees at Guantánamo.

The youngest is now believed to be a Yemeni named Hassan bin Attash, whose leaked detention records indicate he was born in Yemen in 1985. He's the younger brother of former CIA captive Walid bin Attash, an alleged al Qaida lieutenant now at Guantánamo facing war crimes charges in the five-man Sept. 11 death penalty trial.

The Khadr transfer could break a logjam in efforts to get other captives to plead guilty. Defense lawyers have characterized the Obama administration's inability to get Khadr back to Canada as an obstacle to negotiations with other alleged al Qaida foot soldiers whose testimony might be useful at the Guantánamo war court.

The Miami Herald

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