

Omar Khadr, Guantanamo, and the “Global War On Terrorism”: Exclusive Interview with Khadr’s Lawyer Dennis Edney

Global Research News Hour Episode 104

By [Michael Welch](#) and [Prof Michel Chossudovsky](#)

Global Research, May 16, 2015

Region: [Canada](#), [Middle East & North Africa](#), [USA](#)

Theme: [GLOBAL RESEARCH NEWS HOUR](#), [Law and Justice](#), [Police State & Civil Rights](#), [Terrorism](#), [US NATO War Agenda](#)

“Omar Khadr at the age of fifteen was abandoned by his father and dropped into this compound with Taliban warriors. He had no choice to do whatever they wanted him to do. I recall asking Omar, “Why didn’t you run away?” And he said, “Run away to where? And I would have been killed!”...So what choice did he have? He was a child soldier in that circumstance.” -Dennis Edney

“What these comparisons convey is that Al Qaeda fighters and their senior Pakistani advisers were “saved” on the orders of Donald Rumsfeld. Meanwhile, also on the orders of the Secretary of Defense, innocent civilians who had no relationship whatsoever to the war theater were categorized as “enemy combatants”, kidnapped, interrogated and sent to Guantanamo.” [1] -Professor Michel Chossudovsky

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At long last, Omar Khadr has had a taste of freedom.

[Bail was granted on April 24](#) by an Alberta Court. The release was granted pending the outcome of an appeal of the war crimes conviction levelled against Khadr in the US.

Omar Khadr was captured in July 2002 after the compound at which the fifteen year old was residing engaged in a firefight with US Forces. He was accused of [throwing the hand grenade which fatally wounded US Army combat medic Christopher Speer](#).

The young Khadr was relocated to Guantanamo three months later where he was apparently tortured and interrogated. He would reside at that facility for a decade before being released based on a plea bargain, and repatriated to Canada.

The Canadian government at every step of the way has attempted to block justice for Khadr.

Unlike other Western countries, [Canada did not negotiate for the repatriation of one of its nationals](#) from the notorious prison facility. Most recently, Stephen Harper's government [launched an appeal](#) of the decision to release Khadr on bail.

Omar Khadr's lawyer Dennis Edney appears in the first half hour of the program with facts to foil the Harper government's character assassination attempt on his client and friend.

And while speculation abounds of the Harper government's use of Khadr as a propaganda instrument in advance of this October's federal election, questions have been raised about the Guantanamo facility itself. In a [2004 article](#), Professor Michel Chossudovsky evoked a report by investigative reporter Seymour Hersh about the evacuation of hard core Al Qaeda and Taliban fighters to Northwest Pakistan at the same time that innocent civilians were being "kidnapped, interrogated and sent to Guantanamo."

Chossudovsky suggests that Guantanamo's true function is not protection from evil terrorists. Guantanamo, and in fact the broader "War on Terrorism" is about manipulating public opinion into supporting a military agenda serving other diabolical aims. Professor Chossudovsky explains his position in the second half hour.

***Dennis Edney** is recipient of the 2008 National Pro Bono Award and of the 2009 Human Rights Medal awarded by the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia for work that "has helped to promote and further human rights".*

***Professor Michel Chossudovsky** is an award-winning author, Professor of Economics (emeritus) at the University of Ottawa, Founder and Director of the Centre for Research on Globalization (CRG) and Editor of Global Research. He is the author of eleven books including *The Globalization of Poverty and The New World Order* (2003), *America's "War on Terrorism"* (2005), and his most recent, *The Globalization of War, America's Long War against Humanity* (2015).*

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Note:

1) Michel Chossudovsky (March 18, 2004), [“Kidnapping and deporting Civilians to Guantanamo, providing a Safe-haven to Al Qaeda Fighters”](#); original 2004 posting at <http://globalresearch.ca/articles/CHO403D.html>

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