

NEWS RELEASE



MEDIA INQUIRIES:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Plurality approves of Omar Khadr's release

Few view him favourably or think he's a danger to society

TORONTO May 14th, 2015 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1286 Canadian voters, the plurality, close to half, approve of the court's decision to free Omar Khadr (45%), while one third disapprove of this decision (33%). Just fewer than a quarter have no opinion (23%). Approving of Khadr's release is common to the oldest (48%), the wealthiest (\$80K to \$100K - 52%, \$100K to \$250K - 55%), in Quebec (51%), among Liberals (54%) and New Democrats (60%), but not Conservatives (20%), among the best educated (post grad - 65%) and among Francophones (53%).

Few see Khadr as a danger to society

Just 3-in-10 voters see Omar Khadr as dangerous to society (31%), 4-in-10 do not (41%) and more than a quarter have no opinion (28%). Voters are deeply polarized on this issue. The wide majority of those who approve of his release see him as no danger to others (80%), whereas an equally large majority of those who disapprove of his release believe he is (77%).

Few have favourable opinion of Khadr

Just one fifth of voters have a favourable view of Omar Khadr (20%), and a third have an unfavourable view (34%). Fully one half have no view one way or another (46%). A favourable view of Khadr is characteristic of the oldest (65+ - 25%), the wealthier (\$80K to \$100K - 27%), in Quebec (25%), among Liberals (25%) and New Democrats (29%) but not, of course, among Conservatives (7%). Post grads (29%) and Francophones (26%) also have a favourable view of Khadr.

TORONTO

May 14th, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The plurality, close to half, approve of the court's decision to free Omar Khadr (45%).
- Just 3-in-10 voters see Omar Khadr as dangerous to society (31%), 4-in-10 do not (41%) and more than a quarter have no opinion (28%).
- Just one fifth of voters have a favourable view of Omar Khadr (20%), and a third have an unfavourable view (34%).

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Khadr is seen as child soldier rather than terrorist

Four-in-ten voters would describe Omar Khadr as “a child soldier” (39%), while just one quarter would identify him as a “terrorist” (25%). Three-in-ten haven’t formed an opinion (29%). Describing Khadr as a terrorist is common to the oldest (28%), the least wealthy (less than \$20K - 28%, \$20K to \$40K - 31%), in the prairies (33%), Alberta (32%), among Conservatives (47%) and among the least educated (secondary school or less - 35%).

"While Canadians may not like Omar Khadr, and may not like what he’s done, they recognize he was dealt a grave injustice at far too young age, and should now be allowed to live a normal life," said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

Lorne Bozinoff, Ph.D. is the president and founder of Forum Research. He can be reached at lbozinoff@forumresearch.com or at (416) 960-9603.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Four-in-ten voters would describe Omar Khadr as “a child soldier” (39%), while just one quart would identify him as a “terrorist” (25%).
- "While Canadians may not like Omar Khadr, and may not like what he’s done, they recognize he was dealt a grave injustice at far too young age, and should now be allowed to live a normal life," said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

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Methodology

The Forum Poll™ was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 1286 randomly selected Canadians 18 years of age or older. The poll was conducted on May 12-13th, 2015.

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 3%, 19 times out of 20. Subsample results will be less accurate. Margins of error for subsample (such as age, gender) results are available at www.forumresearch.com/samplestim.asp

Where appropriate, the data has been statistically weighted by age, region, and other variables to ensure that the sample reflects the actual population according to the latest Census data.

This research is not necessarily predictive of future outcomes, but rather, captures opinion at one point in time. Forum Research conducted this poll as a public service and to demonstrate our survey research capabilities. Forum houses its poll results in the Data Library of the Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto.

With offices across Canada and around the world, 100% Canadian-owned Forum Research is one of the country's leading survey research firms. This Forum Poll™ and other polls may be found at Forum's poll archive at www.forumresearch.com/polls.asp

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Omar Khadr Released on Bail Approval

‘Do you approve or disapprove of the court decision that released Omar Khadr on bail?’

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1286	159	171	245	309	402	659	627
Approve	45	47	44	37	46	48	47	43
Disapprove	33	23	32	40	39	36	36	30
Don't know	23	30	24	23	14	15	18	27

Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	1286	118	189	195	157	154	235
Approve	45	34	39	40	49	52	55
Disapprove	33	37	38	31	35	27	30
Don't know	23	29	23	29	16	21	15

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1286	70	177	460	116	212	251	1118	168
Approve	45	39	51	44	36	38	46	42	53
Disapprove	33	25	31	34	48	40	25	34	28
Don't know	23	35	18	22	17	21	30	24	19

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1286	408	337	335	80	27	40
Approve	45	20	54	60	48	65	36
Disapprove	33	61	24	18	22	15	47
Don't know	23	19	22	22	30	20	17

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Omar Khadr - Danger to Society

'Do you agree or disagree Omar Khadr is a danger to society?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1286	159	171	245	309	402	659	627
Agree	31	28	32	35	32	31	33	30
Disagree	41	42	38	33	46	45	44	38
Don't know	28	30	29	31	23	23	23	33

Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	1286	118	189	195	157	154	235
Agree	31	36	40	34	27	25	28
Disagree	41	29	31	41	49	47	51
Don't know	28	35	30	25	23	28	21

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1286	70	177	460	116	212	251	1118	168
Agree	31	24	33	31	38	35	27	32	29
Disagree	41	32	45	41	33	38	44	39	48
Don't know	28	45	22	28	29	28	29	29	23

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1286	408	337	335	80	27	40
Agree	31	54	26	17	25	13	47
Disagree	41	20	48	57	41	57	23
Don't know	28	26	26	25	34	30	30

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Omar Khadr - Opinion

'Do you have a favourable or an unfavourable opinion of Omar Kahdr?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1286	159	171	245	309	402	659	627
Favourable	20	23	13	20	22	25	20	21
Unfavourable	34	29	34	35	38	36	39	29
Don't know	46	49	53	45	39	39	41	50

Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	1286	118	189	195	157	154	235
Favourable	20	23	15	23	19	27	23
Unfavourable	34	33	37	32	39	25	35
Don't know	46	44	48	45	42	48	42

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1286	70	177	460	116	212	251	1118	168
Favourable	20	17	25	19	14	23	21	19	26
Unfavourable	34	26	33	35	45	38	29	35	30
Don't know	46	57	42	47	41	39	50	46	44

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1286	408	337	335	80	27	40
Favourable	20	7	25	29	22	37	20
Unfavourable	34	61	26	22	17	19	37
Don't know	46	31	49	50	60	44	43

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Omar Khadr - Child Soldier, Terrorist, or Something Else

‘Would you describe Omar Khadr as a child soldier, a terrorist or something else?’

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1286	159	171	245	309	402	659	627
Child soldier	39	33	36	35	45	49	39	38
Terrorist	25	20	25	29	27	28	27	23
Something else	29	34	31	31	24	19	27	30
Don't know	8	13	7	6	4	4	7	8

Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	1286	118	189	195	157	154	235
Child soldier	39	28	32	37	45	45	45
Terrorist	25	28	31	26	19	21	27
Something else	29	35	30	31	31	23	20
Don't know	8	9	7	5	5	10	8

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1286	70	177	460	116	212	251	1118	168
Child soldier	39	38	39	38	34	41	39	38	41
Terrorist	25	25	22	25	33	32	21	26	21
Something else	29	28	33	29	23	20	29	28	31
Don't know	8	9	6	7	10	7	12	8	7

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1286	408	337	335	80	27	40
Child soldier	39	22	47	47	35	61	34
Terrorist	25	47	18	14	16	15	32
Something else	29	26	30	29	40	22	28
Don't know	8	5	5	10	9	2	5

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