



Chester Ronning Centre  
for the Study of Religion and Public Life

# The Story That Love Tells: A Christian University's Reading of the Omar Khadr Case



**Arlette Zinck**

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The King's University College

*A Ronning Centre Consultation*

*co-sponsored by the ECMC Chair in Islamic Studies  
and the Muslim Students' Association,  
University of Alberta*

Terrorist, Torture Victim, Child Soldier: Depending on who tells the story, Omar Khadr can be seen in each of these labels. In September of 2008 Dennis Edney, Canadian Lawyer for Omar Khadr, told his version of Omar's story to the student body at The King's University College. This address touched off an odyssey of student learning that challenged this community to reconcile its scholarly identity with its Christian convictions. Through its scholastic commitment to hear the story told from all perspectives and its commitment to live out the lessons learned in a manner consistent with their faith, the students at King's discovered that a Christ-like reading of this contemporary social and political issue would require them to move beyond the narratives of both sentimentality and revenge. In its efforts to learn the story that love tells, the King's community has itself become a teller of the tale. By staging public forums and organizing student rallies, King's students have become advocates for a charitable reading of this precedent-setting Canadian case.

**Arlette Zinck** is the Faculty of Arts Dean and Associate Professor of English at The King's University College. Her areas of teaching and research include 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century literature, including Bunyan, Spenser, Milton, early women's writing, spiritual autobiography, and epic poetry. Her interest in the Omar Khadr case grew from hearing Dennis Edney speak at the Invisible Dignity conference at King's in fall 2008, and has grown from there.

**Monday, 28 February 2011, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.**  
C014, Classroom Building, Augustana Campus

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