



JI-LA-001-001



JIMMY CARTER

December 22, 1995

To Attorney General Janet Reno

I am writing to express my deep concern over the conditions described in a recent study published by the Children's Rights Project of Human Rights Watch which details the confinement of juveniles in Louisiana correctional facilities who are routinely subjected to human rights abuses. Hunger, restraint, physical abuse and total lack of privacy are only a few of the violations cited. Such treatment falls short of international human rights standards, specifically those related to confinement of children as set forth in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

As I am sure you agree, it is inexcusable for children, regardless of their actions, to be subjected to this type of treatment, and it is virtually impossible for a child to be rehabilitated in a system which denies him or her respect and basic rights. It is important for young people in our country to have the appropriate legal protections to ensure fair treatment and to guarantee their safety.

I request that you investigate these allegations immediately. If such abuses do exist, I urge you to ensure that appropriate action is taken and that those individuals found responsible for the abuses be held accountable for their actions. Implementing the recommendations set forth by the Human Rights Watch, Children's Rights Project study would ensure that the conditions at the correctional facilities are improved and that the children receive the education, counseling and respect to which they are entitled.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Carter 168-32M-20
Mike Carter

Attorney General Janet Reno
Main Justice Building
10th Street and Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

NEW
SEND TO FILE
PROMPTLY AFTER
ACTION HAS BEEN
AUTHORIZED. DO NOT
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OFFICE FILES

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DLP:LK:AEP:eh
DJ 168-32-0

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

THROUGH: THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

THROUGH: THE ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FROM: Deval L. Patrick
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

SUBJECT: Reply to Letter from President Carter

PURPOSE: To obtain your approval and signature on a proposed letter responding to correspondence addressed to you from President Jimmy Carter requesting an investigation of Louisiana's juvenile facilities pursuant to the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA).

TIMETABLE: Signature requested as soon as possible.

SYNOPSIS: In a recent letter President Jimmy Carter brought to our attention a report of Human Rights Watch alleging serious violations of the constitutional rights of juveniles confined in juvenile facilities throughout the State of Louisiana. We advise President Carter that we are reviewing the report and will initiate such investigations as may be appropriate pursuant to CRIPA and advise him of the results.

RECOMMENDATION: We recommend that you approve and sign the proposed response to President Carter.

Attachment

cc: Special Litigation Section



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Special Litigation

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
CONTROL SHEET**

- 1. FOLDER No: 43572
- 2. TRACKING ID No: X95-045357
- 3. RESERVED
- 4. DATE OF DOCUMENT: 12/22/95
- 5. DATE RECEIVED: 01/02/96
- 6. DUE DATE: 01/17/96
- 7. FROM: Jimmy Carter
Former President
- 8. TO: AG
- 9. CATEGORY: PRIORITY1
- 10. SUBJECT:

Expressing concern regarding the conditions described in a recent study published by the Children's Rights Project of Human Rights Watch which details the confinement of juveniles in Louisiana correctional facilities. Requests an investigation of these allegations and if abuses exist, urges the AG to ensure that appropriate action is taken and that individuals found responsible for the abuses be held accountable for their actions.

11. ACTION/INFORMATION:

Referred To:	Date Assigned:	Action:
CRT	01/02/96	Prepare response for AG signature. Return with control sheet and incoming letter to Executive Secretariat.

Referred To:	Date Assigned:	Information:
OAG	01/02/96	For information.
OASG	01/02/96	For information.

12. RESERVED FOR EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT USE

13. EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT CONTACT: Dorrence Andrews, 616-0074

INTERNAL CONTROL SHEET FOR CIVIL RIGHTS CORRESPONDENCE

From: Jimmy Carter

To: AG

Control No: 43572

Date Received by Faye McDowney: 1/11/96

Section Assignment: ~~Criminal~~ Special Litigation Date: 1/11/96

Date Received by Section: _____

Assigned to (name): _____ (date): _____

Date Returned to Section Manager: _____

Date leaving Section and returned to Front Office: _____

Date received in Front Office: _____

Date Due in Front Office: 1/11/96

Date Due in Exec Sec: 1/17/96

ALL CONGRESIONAL AND WHITE HOUSE CORREPENDENCE IS A PRIORITY.
PLEASE HAVE IT DELIVERED BY MESSSENGER TO ITS NEXT DESTINATION.
RETURN RESPONSES TO Faye McDowney IN ROOM 7129. IF YOU ARE
UNABLE TO MEET THE DUE DATE, PLEASE CONTACT Faye McDowney AT 514-
3847.

