



JI-LA-001-002



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C. 20530

February 2, 1996

The Honorable Jimmy Carter
The Carter Center
One Copenhill Avenue
453 Freedom Parkway
Atlanta, Georgia 30307

Dear President Carter:

Thank you for your letter bringing to my attention a recent study by the Children's Rights Project of Human Rights Watch regarding alleged inadequate conditions of confinement throughout Louisiana's juvenile correctional facilities. In your letter, you request that we investigate these facilities and take appropriate steps to improve conditions afforded to the many children confined there.

Pursuant to the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act, signed into law by you during your Presidency, the Attorney General has the authority to investigate various public facilities, including juvenile correctional facilities, where it is alleged that juveniles are being denied their legal rights. The Department's Civil Rights Division presently has a vigorous enforcement program in which 76 facilities are currently under investigation and an additional 45 facilities are subject to consent decrees, court orders, or are taking other steps to improve conditions and eliminate abuses.

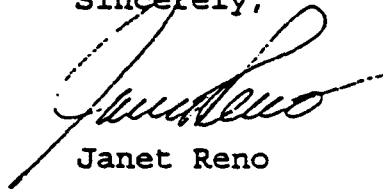
We are currently evaluating the Human Rights Watch's report regarding Louisiana's juvenile facilities. Please be assured that following that review, we will undertake such investigations as are appropriate and will apprise you accordingly of our efforts.

I share your commitment to ensuring the provision of safe conditions and appropriate services for children in need of care and rehabilitation in our nation's juvenile facilities.

The Honorable Jimmy Carter
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Again, please accept my thanks for bringing this matter to
my attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Janet Reno", written in dark ink. The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Janet Reno

