



Office of the Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

September 23, 1996

CRIPA Investigation



JI-LA-001-006

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

Dear President Carter:

I am writing to advise you of the status of our investigation of Louisiana's juvenile correctional facilities pursuant to the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act. To date, we have toured the four facilities at issue in this investigation: Jetson Correctional Center for Youth in Baton Rouge, Louisiana Training Institute in Monroe, Louisiana Training Institute in Bridge City, and Tallulah Correctional Center for Youth in Tallulah. We retained six expert consultants, who specialize in general juvenile correctional issues, abuse prevention, rehabilitation and education, and mental health services, to accompany Department attorneys for the on-site inspections.

Once the experts have finished their evaluations, we will be issuing a formal findings letter of the results of the investigation to Governor Foster and other Louisiana officials.

We note that we have received the full cooperation of the State of Louisiana and hope that we will be able to maintain this relationship throughout the investigation.

Thank you again for bringing this matter to our attention. As you are aware, I share your commitment to ensure the provision of safe conditions and appropriate services for children in our nation's juvenile facilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet Reno".

Janet Reno



Department of Justice
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
CONTROL SHEET

1. FOLDER No: 43572
2. TRACKING ID No: X95-045357
3. GETBACK C
4. DATE OF DOCUMENT: 12/22/95
5. DATE RECEIVED: 01/02/96
6. DUE DATE: 09/25/96
7. FROM: Jimmy Carter
Atlanta, GA 30307
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:
ESFILES	09/24/96	For closing, filing, and dispatching. AG signed letter dated 9-23-96 by OAG. Original handcarried to CRT (Peabody) per his request. CRT (Peabody) will dispatch letter.
OAG	09/18/96	For AG signature.
ODAG	09/16/96	For DAG initialing on Action Memorandum. Return to Executive Secretariat for forwarding to AG. 9/18/96: ODAG (Ogden) initialed for the DAG on 9/17/96.
OASG	09/04/96	For ASG initialing on Action Memorandum. w/memo from CRT to the AG dated 9/4/96, submitting a follow up letter for AG signature. Return to E.S. for forwarding to DAG. ASG initialed on 9/13/96.



OAG	02/01/96	For AG signature. 02-05-96 AG Signed letter dated 02-03-96 by OAG. Original mailed by Exec. Sec. Copy to CRT.
ODAG	01/30/96	For DAG initialing on Action Memorandum. Return to Executive Secretariat for forwarding to AG. ODAG (Ogden) initialed for DAG on 1/31/96.
OASG	01/25/96	For ASG initialing on Action Memorandum. Return to Executive Secretariat for forwarding to DAG. ASG initialed on 1/29/96.
CRT	01/02/96	Prepare response for AG signature. Return with control sheet and incoming letter to Executive Secretariat. 1/24/96: CRT submitted response

Referred To: Date Assigned: Information:

OAG	01/02/96	For information.
OASG	01/02/96	For information.

12. RESERVED FOR EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT USE

AG FILE: Presidential/Former Presidents, AG Chron, AS-2-2-96
& 9-23-96

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



Department of Justice
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U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

'96 SEP -4 P4:40

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20035

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIA

September 4, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

THROUGH: THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL *DAG by DWD 9/17/96*

THROUGH: THE ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY GENERAL *MS 9/13/96*

FROM: *for Anetta King*
Deval L. Patrick
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

SUBJECT: Follow-up letter to Jimmy Carter on Louisiana juvenile investigation.

PURPOSE: To obtain your signature on a proposed letter.

TIMETABLE: Signature required at your convenience.

SYNOPSIS: During the August 21, 1996 briefing with the Civil Rights Division on the Prison Litigation Reform Act, we reported on the status of the Louisiana investigation of four juvenile correctional facilities under the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA). Because Former President Carter wrote to you requesting that the Department investigate the facilities, you requested that we draft a letter to provide him with an update on the investigation. Inasmuch as the investigation is still on-going and, at Louisiana's request, we have not yet made any public disclosures of our interim findings of abuse, the letter does not disclose any specifics about the investigation. We will draft another letter for your signature enclosing a copy of the findings letter once it is finalized.

RECOMMENDATION: We recommend that you sign the attached letter.

Attachment



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.

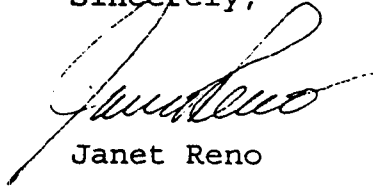
We are currently evaluating the Human Rights Watch's report regarding Louisiana's juvenile facilities. Please be assured that following that review, we will undertake such investigations as are appropriate and will apprise you accordingly of our efforts.

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
Page 2

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 black ink. The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Janet Reno





U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20035

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

THROUGH: THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL *See by DUCO 1/31/96*

THROUGH: THE ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY GENERAL *[Signature] 1/29/96*

FROM: Deval L. Patrick *[Signature]*
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

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

96 JAN 24 08:40

RECEIVED
DEPT. OF JUSTICE





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,

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