

RICHARD J. DURBIN
ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC
LEADER

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1304

332 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1304
(202) 224-2152
TTY (202) 224-8180

230 SOUTH DEARBORN, 38TH FLOOR
CHICAGO, IL 60604
(312) 353-4952

525 SOUTH EIGHTH STREET
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
(217) 492-4062

701 NORTH COURT STREET
MARION, IL 62959
(618) 998-8812

durbin.senate.gov

November 3, 2005

The Honorable Alberto R. Gonzales
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Gonzales:

I write to request an update on the Justice Department's handling of detainee abuse allegations.

On June 17, 2004, then-Attorney General John Ashcroft announced the indictment of a Central Intelligence Agency contractor for abusing an Afghan detainee. He stated that the Justice Department had also received one abuse referral from the Defense Department and "additional" abuse referrals from the CIA. He said, "These are ongoing investigations; I cannot offer further details at this time." Mr. Ashcroft announced that he was assigning all ongoing prisoner abuse cases to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia.

It has been sixteen months since this announcement. I would appreciate your responses to the questions below.

Since the beginning of the conflict in Afghanistan, how many detainee abuse referrals has the Justice Department received from the Defense Department? For how many of these referrals were investigations opened? How many of these investigations have resulted in indictments? How many of these investigations are still ongoing? How many have been closed? What were the bases for closing these investigations?

Since the beginning of the conflict in Afghanistan, how many detainee abuse referrals has the Justice Department received from the CIA? For how many of these referrals were investigations opened? How many of these investigations have resulted in indictments? How many of these investigations are still ongoing? How many have been closed? What were the bases for closing these investigations?

In addition to investigations of detainee abuse resulting from Defense Department or CIA referrals, how many abuse investigations have been opened since the beginning of the conflict in Afghanistan? How many of these investigations have resulted in

indictments? How many of these investigations are still ongoing? How many have been closed? What were the bases for closing these investigations?

Has the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia handled all detainee abuse cases? What have been the roles of the Criminal Division and the Civil Rights Division, if any, in these cases?

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Richard J. Durbin