



May 7, 2012

Eric Holder
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Holder:

We are writing to express our dismay and disappointment that we have been unable to secure a meeting with you to discuss the 2003 Guidance Regarding the Use of Race by Federal Law Enforcement Agencies (Guidance). Despite repeated requests for a meeting, your office has been unresponsive to our emails and phone calls.

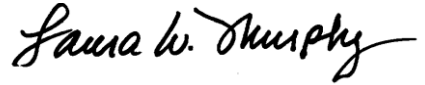
Rights Working Group, a national coalition of more than three hundred organizational members, and the American Civil Liberties Union, with more than a half million members and 53 state affiliates, have supported your department in its efforts to conduct a review of the Guidance. We have met with key staff assigned to the internal DOJ task force, and we have presented them with substantial documentation on the need for concrete reforms. In April 2010, more than 5,000 people signed a petition urging your department to complete the review and adopt needed reforms. In December 2010, Rights Working Group presented your agency with a letter urging the same actions signed by more than 160 organizations.

Today, we are submitting a new letter, signed by more than 200 organizations from across the country. These organizations represent key constituencies who have supported this administration's efforts to combat racial discrimination, and particularly racial profiling. The letter is signed by national, state and local groups, urging that your department complete this task. The organizational letter complements the letter from 68 Members of Congress, led by Senator Dick Durbin and Representative John Conyers, who last month urged you to complete the review and to adopt needed reforms.

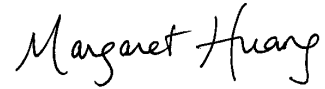
In the wake of the significant investigations by your Civil Rights Division of pattern or practice violations related to racial profiling, mounting evidence of FBI surveillance of U.S. communities based on religion or national origin, and the proliferation of state laws that codify racial profiling in the name of immigration enforcement, there is an urgent need to finish your review of the Guidance and to fix it so that it can be a useful tool for combating racial and religious profiling going forward.

On behalf of the more than 200 organizations who signed the attached letter, we hope that you will reconsider our request to meet and provide an update to those who seek to support you on this issue. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincere regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura W. Murphy". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Laura W. Murphy
Director
ACLU Washington Legislative Office

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret Huang". The script is elegant and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Margaret Huang
Executive Director
Rights Working Group