



# MALDEF

Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund

**National Headquarters**  
Los Angeles  
**Regional Office**  
634 S. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90014  
Tel: 213.629.2512  
Fax: 213.629.0286

**Atlanta**  
**Regional Office**  
34 Peachtree St NW  
Suite 2500  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
Tel: 678.559.1071  
Fax: 678.559.1079

**Chicago**  
**Regional Office**  
11 East Adams Street  
Suite 700  
Chicago, IL 60603  
Tel: 312.427.0701  
Fax: 312.427.0691

**San Antonio**  
**Regional Office**  
110 Broadway  
Suite 300  
San Antonio, TX 78205  
Tel: 210.224.5476  
Fax: 210.224.5382

**Houston**  
**Program Office**  
Ripley House  
4410 Navigation  
Suite 118  
Houston, TX 77011  
Tel: 713.315-6494  
Fax: 713.315-6404

**Sacramento**  
**Satellite Office**  
1107 9th Street  
Suite 240  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Tel: 916.443.7531  
Fax: 916.443.1541

**Washington, D.C.**  
**Regional Office**  
1016 16th Street, NW  
Suite 100  
Washington, DC 20036  
Tel: 202.293.2828  
Fax: 202.293.2849

June 12, 2008

Attorney General Michael Mukasey  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Mukasey:

On April 1, 2008, I wrote to you regarding the deplorable treatment of Ms. Adriana Torres-Flores, who was detained for four days in a nine foot by ten foot holding cell without food, water or bathroom facilities in Washington County, Arkansas. I requested that the Civil Rights Division, Special Litigation Section, initiate an investigation into the condition of Ms. Torres-Flores' confinement and determine whether her federal civil rights were violated.

On the same date, I wrote to United States Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") Secretary Chertoff about this incident because his department had delegated certain immigration law enforcement authority to Washington County law enforcement officials pursuant to Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1996, 8 U.S.C. 1357(g). Following a DHS inquiry into the matter, Assistant Secretary Julie Myers promptly responded to my letter.

My letter to you also outlined our grave concerns regarding potential civil rights violations in a number of jurisdictions around the country that are entering into Memoranda of Understanding ("MOU") agreements with Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") pursuant to Section 287g. Based on the numerous reports of possible civil rights violations committed under the guise of the 287g program or by local law enforcement officials attempting to check immigration status outside the 287g program, I also requested that your Special Litigation Section: (1) review the civil rights training currently provided to local officials pursuant to the MOUs; and (2) develop a mechanism to study whether a change in police practices regarding stops or arrests follows adoption of MOUs.

I am deeply disappointed that to date, no one from the Department of Justice has responded to the letter, either by telephone, e-mail or letter. Typically, the Department would, at the very least, seek additional information about such a grave incident, and would also conduct some type of inquiry into the issues we raised

Mukasey  
June 12, 2008  
Page 2

regarding the 287g program. I can only hope your attorneys are addressing the serious matter raised in Ms. Torres-Flores' case and in general on the MOUs.

Sincerely,



John Trasviña  
President & General Counsel

cc: The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Conyers  
Chairman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515