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*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATEMENT

MARY JO WHITE, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, issued a statement today following the jury's verdicts in State Supreme Court with respect to the four police officers who had been charged in the shooting death of Amadou Diallo. Ms. WHITE announced that, as in cases of this kind, her Office, in conjunction with the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, will review all of the available evidence with respect to the death of Mr. Diallo, including the evidence available to the District Attorney's Office in Bronx County, to determine whether there were any violations of the federal criminal civil rights laws.

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AFTERMATH

Talking Points on the Amadou Diallo Verdict
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FACTS: On Friday, February 25, 2000, a jury in state court in Albany, New York acquitted all four police officers involved in the shooting death of Amadou Diallo.

- Following the shooting last year, the U.S. Attorneys office in Manhattan, together with the Civil Rights Division in Washington, opened an investigation into the incident. In addition, the FBI assisted local investigators.
- Over the past few weeks, we have been monitoring the state trial. And now, with the trial concluded, we will review all the information that was developed during the state case and determine whether there were any violations of federal criminal civil rights laws.

If pressed, we will say on background:

- In addition to the Diallo investigation, the Civil Rights Division, and the U.S. Attorneys offices in Manhattan and Brooklyn, are working together to conduct a joint investigation into certain alleged patterns and practices of the NYPD. The investigation is being conducted under a provision of the federal Crime Bill, which allows the Department to investigate law enforcement agencies that engage in misconduct -- and enables the Department to get the agencies to change their practices.
- The inquiry began in 1997 following the Abner Louima assault. At that time, the investigation sought to determine whether incidents of excessive force were the product of systemic deficiencies in the NYPD. For instance, it was focusing on the way the NYPD responded to the use of excessive force by police officers.
- In the wake of the shooting death of Diallo, the Justice Department expanded its investigation of the NYPD to include an examination of the NYPD Street Crimes Unit. That investigation is continuing.