

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, DC 20515-6216
One Hundred Tenth Congress

March 15, 2007

The Honorable Alberto R. Gonzales
Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

I am extremely concerned about new information concerning the decision of President Bush last April to shut down an inquiry by the Justice Department's Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) relating to the Bush Administration's then-warrantless domestic surveillance program. According to an article in the National Journal, you were informed shortly before the decision to shut down the investigation that your own conduct would likely be a focus of the inquiry. It would be an extraordinary abuse of authority if you advised the President on this matter after learning that your own conduct was to be investigated. It is crucial that you immediately address this issue.

The decision by the President to shut down the OPR investigation by denying security clearances to key Department personnel was itself extremely unusual, controversial and, in our view, improper. But the issue of your role in advising the President on this question raises what may be even more serious concerns. Specifically, after learning that your own conduct was to be investigated, did you advise the President that the OPR inquiry should be shut down and did you inform the President that your own conduct was a subject of the inquiry? Although the Department and the White House have until now declined to answer these questions, it is critical that you answer both these questions immediately and provide copies of any documents relating to your answers.

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Please respond through the Judiciary Committee office, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 (tel: 202-225-3951; fax: 202-225-7680), immediately.

Sincerely,



John Conyers, Jr.
Chairman

cc: Hon. Lamar S. Smith
Hon. Richard A. Hertling