

April 15, 2010

Rajesh De, Deputy Assistant Attorney General  
Tali Farhadian, Counsel to the Attorney General  
Monica Ramirez, Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. De, Ms. Farhadian, and Ms. Ramirez:

The undersigned civil liberties organizations and Arab, Muslim, Sikh, and South Asian community groups write to request a meeting with you, the members of the Department of Justice's (DOJ) working group reviewing the Department's 2003 Guidance Regarding the Use of Race by Federal Law Enforcement Agencies ("Guidance").

Our organizations are concerned that loopholes in the Guidance undermine its stated intentions. For example, the Guidance includes a border and national security exception and fails to address profiling by religion and national origin. Furthermore, the Guidance lacks an enforcement mechanism.

We were very pleased when Attorney General Eric Holder publicly committed to review the Guidance. We were similarly pleased when Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, Tom Perez, committed during his confirmation process to carefully review the Guidance with the consultation of civil rights experts and affected minority groups.

We look forward to hearing from you to schedule a meeting to provide our comments on how the Guidance can be strengthened to achieve its intended purpose.

Sincerely,

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)  
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)  
Arab Community Center for Economic & Social Services (ACCESS)  
Asian Law Caucus  
Bill of Rights Defense Committee  
Brennan Center for Justice  
Center for National Security Studies  
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA)  
Muslim Advocates  
National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC)  
OneAmerica  
Open Society Institute  
Rights Working Group  
Sikh Coalition  
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)