



MALDEF

Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund

National Headquarters

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March 11, 2009

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The Honorable Eric Holder
Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Chicago

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Dear Attorney General Holder:

San Antonio

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On behalf of the Mexican American Legal Defense & Educational Fund (MALDEF), I am writing to express our appreciation for your department's decisive action in opening a federal civil rights investigation into the illegal actions taken by Maricopa County Sheriff Joseph Arpaio. As you may know, as early as last summer, MALDEF wrote to your predecessor seeking an investigation and action. We received no response. Since that time, Sheriff Arpaio's actions against Latino residents have become even more egregious. Your action to commence an investigation should demonstrate to Sheriff Arpaio and to the nation that the federal government is assuming its rightful place at the forefront of protecting the civil and constitutional rights of all Americans.

Houston

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I was struck by the press accounts of Sheriff Arpaio's apparent defiance toward your action. Almost fifty years ago, your predecessor Robert F. Kennedy met similar resistance from Southern sheriffs. Resistance toward civil rights was wrong then and it is wrong today. We represent individuals whose rights have been violated by Sheriff Arpaio's actions. You have MALDEF's complete cooperation and all available assistance as you move forward in this investigation.

Sacramento

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Thank you.

Washington, D.C.

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Sincerely,

Nancy Ramirez
Western Regional Counsel

Advancing Latino Civil Rights for 40 Years

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