



The Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison's Department of Justice Newsletter

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Newsletter from the Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison

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Attorney General Mukasey Announces \$200 Million Initiative Targeted to Fight Violent Crime

In a speech before the U.S. Conference of Mayors on January 24th, 2008, Attorney General Michael B. Mukasey announced the President is seeking \$200 million in funding for a new Violent Crime Reduction Partnership Initiative for Fiscal Year 2009. The funding is part of the Department's strategy to support state and local law enforcement efforts in communities that are experiencing increases in violent crime and to keep crime down in others.

"This initiative will help communities address their specific violent crime challenges, especially where multiple jurisdictions are involved," Attorney General Mukasey said. "We'll be able to send targeted resources where they are needed the most and where they show the most promise. Through close coordination, we also can avoid needless duplication and free up resources to help more cities."

The Violent Crime Reduction Partnership Initiative will support multi-agency task forces to allow law enforcement to focus efforts on serious multi-jurisdictional violent crime issues.



Attorney General Michael B. Mukasey delivers remarks at the 76th Winter meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors on January 24, 2008 in Washington D.C.

CIVIL RIGHTS NEWS**AG Commemorates Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday at Shiloh Baptist Church**

In Commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday, Attorney General Michael Mukasey participated in a prayer breakfast at the historic Shiloh Baptist Church in Washington, D.C. on January 19, 2008. Here he is pictured with the Reverend Wallace Charles Smith, Pastor of the church.

Excerpts from the Attorney General's Remarks:

"Martin Luther King Day has become an annual occasion when we, as a nation, are made to pause and take stock of how far we have come in fulfilling Dr. King's dream of equal rights and freedom for all; and of how much further we have to travel."

"The Department of Justice occupies a special place in the fight to make Martin Luther King's dream a reality. Justice is not merely the Department's name – it is its mission. And central to that mission is the vigorous enforcement of our nation's civil rights laws."

"Thanks in large part to Dr. Martin Luther King and the heirs of his legacy, including Coretta Scott King whom we also celebrate at this breakfast, it seems impossible today to imagine the Justice Department without the Civil Rights Division."

"Through the Civil Rights Division, the Department of Justice has given real substance to Thomas Jefferson's declaration, which was shamefully disregarded in Dr. King's time, that we are all created equal."

"When we think of what we have seen, and what we continue to see, in the history and experience of racial and religious discord in other countries that were not so fortunate as to have a Dr. Martin Luther King, we realize what horrors we were spared, and how blessed we were by his life."

Safeguarding Civil Rights

In 2007, the Department of Justice once again reaffirmed its commitment to defend civil rights. The Civil Rights Division's important work includes accomplishments in the following areas:

- **Operation Home Sweet Home**
- **The Prosecution of Criminal Civil Rights Violations**
- **Ensuring the Right to Equal Employment**
- **Safeguarding Voting Rights**
- **Protecting Religious Liberties**

For more information on these specific accomplishments, please go to http://www.usdoj.gov/opa/pr/2008/January/08_crt_043.html.

The Division's enforcement records in these areas are just some of the many important ways we honor Dr. King's vision for America. For more information about the Division and the laws it enforces, go to <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt>.

DOJ Commemorates Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Reverend Samuel Billy Kyles addresses Department of Justice employees at a January 15, 2008, event honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Also pictured are, from right, Acting Deputy Attorney General Craig Morford, Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division Grace Chung Becker, and Vontell D. Frost-Tucker, Director of the Equal Opportunity Staff, Justice Management Division.

AG Holds Joint Press Conference with Mexican Attorney General Medina Mora



Attorney General Mukasey and Attorney General Medina Mora at the joint press conference on January 16, 2008.

On his first international trip at the helm of the Department of Justice, Attorney General Michael Mukasey joined Mexican Attorney General Eduardo Medina Mora at a joint press conference in Mexico City, Mexico on January 16, 2008. Below are excerpts from Attorney General Mukasey's remarks:

"I think it is appropriate that my first trip abroad as Attorney General would be to Mexico to meet with Attorney General Medina Mora. The law enforcement relationship between the United States and Mexico is close, important, and productive. I want it to remain that way during my tenure as Attorney General of the United States."

"Over the past year in particular, we have had a tremendous amount of cooperation on important issues, including extraditions and joint operations and training of our officers on both sides. We have succeeded in stopping or disrupting substantial criminal enterprises and drug cartels, and we have laid the groundwork for even more success in the future."

CRIMINAL DIVISION NEWS

Former Department of Defense Employees are Sentenced for Defrauding the United States

Two former civilian employees of the Department of Defense (DOD) were sentenced in El Paso, Tex., for defrauding the United States of tens of thousands of dollars, Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the Criminal Division announced on January 28, 2008.

Lilia Delgadillo, 34, of El Paso, who pleaded guilty on November 2, 2007 to one count of wire fraud, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge David Briones in U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas, to 33 months in prison followed by probation with 100 hours of community service.

Delgadillo was employed by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), a component of DOD, and stationed at Ft. Bliss, Texas. Delgadillo admitted that from January through March 2007, she and a coworker, Saul Granados, 26, devised a scheme to defraud the United States of up to \$700,000 through the misuse of a DOD pay-processing computer system.

Both Granados and Delgadillo improperly accessed the system and submitted fraudulent pay adjustments which resulted in wire transmissions from DFAS headquarters in Indiana to Delgadillo's bank account in Texas.

Three Indicted and Arrested in One of the Largest Counterfeit Goods Prosecutions in U.S. History

Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the Criminal Division and United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia Chuck Rosenberg announced on January 17, 2008, that a federal court in Richmond unsealed an indictment of three defendants involved in one of the largest counterfeit luxury goods operations in the United States.

On October 2, 2007, a federal grand jury returned a seven-count indictment charging Chong Lam, 49, Siu Yung Chan, a.k.a. Joyce Chan, 39, and Eric Yuen, 39, with one count of conspiracy to traffic in counterfeit goods imported from the People's Republic of China, four counts of trafficking in counterfeit handbags, wallets, purses, and carry-on bags, and two counts of illegally smuggling counterfeit goods into the U.S. The value of the corresponding authentic luxury goods manufactured is estimated to be over \$100 million.

An indictment is only an allegation, and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

Alan Ralsky, Ten Others, Indicted in International Illegal Spamming and Stock Fraud Scheme

A federal grand jury indictment was unsealed on January 3, 2008, in Detroit charging 11 persons, including Alan M. Ralsky, his son-in-law Scott K. Bradley, and Judy M. Devenow, of Michigan, and eight others, in a wide-ranging international fraud scheme involving the illegal use of bulk commercial e-mailing, or "spamming."

Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the Criminal Division said, "The flood of illegal spam continues to wreak havoc on the online marketplace and has become a global criminal enterprise. It clogs consumers' email boxes with scams and unwanted messages and imposes significant costs on our society. This indictment reflects the commitment of the Department of Justice to prosecuting these spamming organizations wherever they may operate."

An indictment is only an allegation, and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

Defense Contractor and Former Manager Charged in Conspiracy to Bribe Military Contracting Officer

A federal grand jury in Oklahoma City returned an indictment against a U.S. Department of Defense contractor and one of its former managers for conspiring to bribe a military contracting officer in Iraq, the Department of Justice announced on January 29, 2008. The indictment unsealed was against Elie Samir Chidiac, a U.S. citizen, and Raman International Inc. of Cypress, Texas, which does business as Raman Corporation.

Raman and Chidiac are charged on counts of conspiracy to commit bribery. Both are charged with participating in a scheme to steer Defense contracts to themselves. Chidiac is also charged with participating in a scheme with a co-conspirator military officer to alter contracting documents to allow Chidiac to fraudulently obtain payment for work not performed.

An indictment is only an allegation, and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

Attorney General Michael Mukasey Addresses Executive Working Group

On January 18, 2008, Attorney General Michael Mukasey addressed the Executive Working Group on Prosecutorial Relations (EWG) on coordination between federal, state, and local law enforcement on all aspects of Cyber Crime. The EWG furthers relations between the Department of Justice and local district attorneys and state attorneys general. It is an opportunity for the Department of Justice to engage in an open dialogue on issues of common concern at the federal, state and local level.

The EWG comes together three times a year in a meeting hosted by the Justice Department's Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison. The participants in the EWG include United States Attorneys, representatives from the Department of Justice Criminal Division, National District Attorneys Association and the National Association of Attorneys General. This was the first time the EWG met outside of Washington, D.C. with Colorado Attorney General John Suthers hosting the members in Denver, Colorado.



Congress Must Act Now to Keep a Critical Intelligence Gap Closed

Our Intelligence Community Must Have the Tools It Needs to Protect Us from Foreign Terrorists

Congress has just days to permanently close a critical intelligence gap that was making our Nation less safe. Last August, Congress passed the Protect America Act (PAA), which provided our Intelligence Community a critical tool it needs to acquire important information about terrorists who want to harm America. The PAA will expire in just days. Congress must act now to keep our Nation safe by making the critical authority to collect intelligence under the PAA permanent and by providing meaningful liability protection to companies alleged in lawsuits to have assisted in the efforts to defend our Nation following the 9/11 attacks.

Attorney General Mukasey, in his recent testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee, spoke on the importance of passing such critical legislation. Below are excerpts from his testimony:

"As this Committee is well aware, the clock is ticking on critical national security authorities—the Protect America Act, which gave the government new authorities to conduct surveillance of foreign intelligence targets overseas, will soon sunset. I urge you to pass legislation ensuring that our intelligence community retains the tools it needs to protect the country. It must be legislation that enables our intelligence professionals to surveil targets overseas without individual court orders, and it must provide retroactive liability protection for companies who are believed to have helped our country in the wake of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks."

"The Senate Intelligence Committee's bipartisan bill is not perfect, but it is a fundamentally sound proposal that would put critical surveillance authorities on a long-term institutional footing, and would help ensure that we continue to obtain assistance from third parties that is vital to our national security efforts. I hope Congress will act quickly to pass the legislation our nation needs to modernize our national security surveillance laws. I am reminded each day in my morning threat briefings that the protection of the American people from the threat of international terrorism is, and must remain, the Justice Department's top priority."

ARTICLES - Office of Public Affairs and Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison; PAA Article includes material from the White House Press Office

PICTURES - DOJ Photography; Front page photo of the Attorney General's speech courtesy of the United States Conference of Mayors;

Page 3 photo of AG in Mexico by Henry Romero, Reuters