

LAW & JUSTICE

More Outrage Over Stealth Racial Profiling Report

The American Civil Liberties Union has joined several other prominent civil rights groups in calling called upon Attorney General Alberto Gonzales to investigate the apparent attempt by the Justice Department to bury an unfavorable government report on racial profiling.

"Suppressing this report won't make discriminatory profiling go away; it's a fact of life for millions of

Americans," said Caroline Fredrickson, Director of the ACLU Washington Legislative Office. "If we want to eliminate discrimination in law enforcement, it is vital that lawmakers and the public have this information. We urge Attorney General Gonzales to look into this matter immediately."

At issue is a survey of police conduct, compiled by the Department of Justice's Bureau of Jus-

tics Statistics. Earlier this year, as the report was near completion, Lawrence A. Greenfeld, director of the agency, submitted for review a news release to announce the findings. Greenfeld was told to delete language that highlighted findings that black and Hispanic drivers were subjected to searches, arrests and use of force more often than white drivers. After Greenfeld refused, no

release was issued, and the survey was posted without announcement to the Justice Department's Web site. Greenfeld was later removed from his position as director of the agency.

The ACLU noted that the action surrounding the Greenfeld demotion follows an alarming trend by the administration to conceal or dismiss information - often critical

of government actions - that is collected by independent agencies or review boards.

The report found that blacks and Hispanics were roughly three times more likely to "experience police threat or use of force" during interaction with the police, almost three times more likely to be arrested, and three times more likely to have their person or their vehicle searched.

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Ministers Want Bush Censured

For incompetent hurricane disaster response, relief

Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice joined a broad coalition of activists last week calling for Congress to bring charges to reprimand and censure President George W. Bush for the handling of the Hurricane Katrina disaster.

The coalition said Bush's incompetent and inept leadership resulted in hundreds of deaths and unbelievable human suffering of United States' citizens.

"More and more lives are being lost in the aftermath of Katrina," says national president of the group, the Rev. Graylan S. Hagler.

"This is, to say the least, criminal negligence to the highest degree. The president in his negligence of the American people in the Gulf Coast has committed a serious breach of official duties as head of state and it begs the question whether he should continue to lead this country," says Rev. Hagler.

"The United States system of government requires that we have a strong and independent president. This is an extreme circumstance and an overwhelming majority of Americans now lacks confidence in the president's leadership.



A woman cradles her son waiting to be rescued from the New Orleans Convention Center on Sept. 2, five days after Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast.

His leadership has shown a wanton disregard for the lives of Americans resulting in an unimaginable disaster and a national and international embarrassment to this country."

The ministers also charged the Bush administration with racism.

"Many of those suffering are black and poor and we cannot deny that race played a

factor in the slow, uncoordinated and incompetent response of the government," says Rev. Luther Holland of Chicago's Congregational Church of Park Manor.

The hurricane catastrophe disproportionately affected blacks and brought attention to the stark racial and economic inequalities that exist throughout the nation.

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Bank cameras show three suspects in a series of identity theft crimes over the past six months.

Bank Cameras Spot Suspects

Investigators from the Regional Economic Crime Investigation Center are seeking the public's help to identify three suspects responsible for more than \$20,000 in identity theft-related crimes in the past six months.

The suspects have gone into several banks and retail businesses presenting checks and credit cards stolen during business burglaries that occurred throughout Portland and Southwest Washington.

The three suspects are acting independent of each other and may or may not be aware of each other's activities. The suspects may have used wigs, hats, and make-up in an attempt to disguise their identity.

If you have any information on this case, call Detective Catherine Carroll at 503-823-0456.

County Identifies Sex Offenders

Website gives photos

Multnomah County has launched a predatory sex offender website containing over 180 local individuals who are currently on probation or post-prison supervision and have been designated as "predatory" sex offenders.

Names, photographs, address and other information about each offender are searchable by zip code, offender name and other variables. The website also includes information about sex offender supervision, information for victims and explanations of sex offender registration laws.

The website address is www.co.multnomah.or.us/dcj/sexoffender.shtml.

"An informed public helps us supervise offenders more effectively," said Joanne Fuller, corrections department

director. "The predatory sex offender website lets people know who's out in the community and gives us another way to involve the public in keeping neighborhoods safe."

Officials said offenders on the site are not wanted, unless otherwise noted, and the public should not attempt to apprehend them. If an offender is listed as "wanted," anyone who sees that offender should call 911.

A sex offender is designated as "predatory" if the offender has been convicted of sex offenses and demonstrates a tendency to victimize or injure others, based on a risk assessment tool that is used statewide.

Only a small portion of Multnomah County's nearly 900 sex offenders on supervision are designated as predatory.

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