



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

Volume 2, Issue 7

August 2008

August Highlights:

- ◆ Operation FALCON 2008 (p.1)
- ◆ President Signs FISA Law (p.2)
- ◆ Protecting Voting Rights (p.2)
- ◆ FBI's 100th Anniversary (p.2)
- ◆ AG Delivers National Security Speech (p.3)
- ◆ White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives National Conference (p.3)
- ◆ National Sheriffs' Institute Graduates Dinner (p.3)
- ◆ OVW Metropolitan Summit (p.4)
- ◆ Largest Settlement in Forest Fire Case Announced (p.4)
- ◆ Final Guidelines for Sex Offender Registration and Notification (p.4)

Newsletter from the Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison
RFK Main Justice Building, Room 1629
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Phone: (202) 514 - 3465
Fax: (202) 514 - 2504
Email: oipl@usdoj.gov

Results of Operation FALCON 2008 Announced



On July 16, 2008, Attorney General Michael Mukasey and U.S. Marshals Service Director John Clark participated in a press conference in Atlanta, GA announcing the results of Operation FALCON 2008.

The U.S. Marshals Service, assisted by federal, state and local law enforcement, arrested 19,380 fugitives and cleared 25,087 warrants as part of Operation FALCON 2008 (Federal and Local Cops Organized Nationally). Ranging from coast to coast, Operation FALCON 2008 brought together the talents and resources of 30 federal agencies, 162 state agencies and 1,425 local sheriffs' and police departments, making the program a huge success.

For this year's FALCON operation, the fifth of its kind, the U.S. Marshals returned FALCON to its roots as a nationwide fugitive apprehension initiative. An alteration to the original FALCON concept culminated in record-breaking results. This year, participating District and Regional Task Forces chose a week in June to coordinate the best operational schedule, thereby allowing optimal participation by local, county, state and federal law enforcement partners. A complete list of participating Districts can be found at <http://www.usmarshals.gov/falcon08/media.htm>

Since its inception in 2005, Operation FALCON has made more than 55,800 arrests and cleared over 70,500 warrants and is the single most successful initiative aimed at apprehending violent fugitives in U.S. law enforcement history.

President Signs FISA Amendments Act of 2008



Members of Congress and various Cabinet members joined President Bush in the Rose Garden at the White House where he delivered remarks prior to signing the FISA Amendments Act of 2008 on July 10, 2008. White House photo by Joyce N. Boghosian, White House Photography.

On July 10, 2008, President Bush, joined by members of Congress and members of his Cabinet, including Attorney General Mukasey, delivered remarks prior to signing the FISA Amendments Act of 2008. The bi-partisan legislation restores a critical authority to collect intelligence and includes liability protection for telecom service providers who assisted the government immediately after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Highlights from the President's Speech:

"Today I'm pleased to sign landmark legislation that is vital to the security of our people. The bill will allow our intelligence professionals to quickly and effectively monitor the communications of terrorists abroad while respecting the liberties of Americans here at home. The bill I sign today will help us meet our most solemn responsibility: to stop new attacks and to protect our people."

"Protecting America from another attack is the most important responsibility of the federal government -- the most solemn obligation that a President undertakes. When I first addressed the Congress after 9/11, I carried a badge by the mother of a police officer who died in the World Trade Center. I pledged to her, to the families of the victims, and to the American people that I would never forget the wound that was inflicted on our country. I vowed to do everything in my power to prevent another attack on our nation. I believe this legislation is going to help keep that promise."

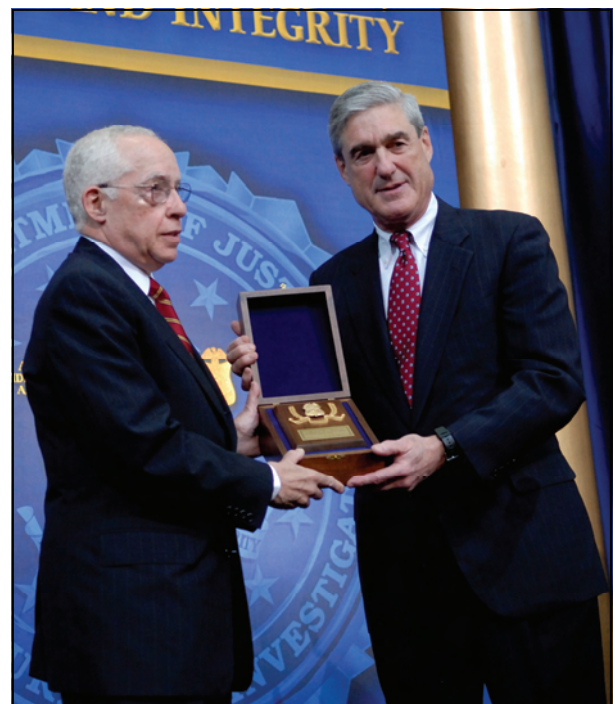
Protecting Voting Rights

On July 2, 2008, Attorney General Mukasey delivered remarks at the 7th annual Ballot Access and Voting Integrity Symposium at the Department's National Advocacy Center in Columbia, SC. He addressed the Department's efforts to protect voting rights and enforce specific federal laws that help to ensure all qualified voters have an opportunity to cast their ballots. The symposium provides for training of Department personnel in preparation for federal elections, including the Nov. 4, 2008, general election. In addition, the symposium provides guidance on federal-state coordination matters to U.S. Attorneys who in the coming months will meet with state officials responsible for handling election matters in their respective districts.

One of the Department of Justice's highest priorities is to protect voting rights and enforce specific federal laws that help to ensure that all qualified voters have an opportunity to cast their ballots and have them counted. The Ballot Access and Voting Integrity Initiative was established in October 2002 to spearhead the Department's expanded efforts to address election crimes and voting rights violations. The initiative has two overarching goals: to ensure fair voting access, and to protect the integrity of the election process.

With the participation of attorneys from 93 U.S. Attorneys' Offices, the symposium strengthens the nationwide span of expertise related to enforcement of voting rights and prosecution of election crimes.

On July 17, 2008, Attorney General Mukasey and FBI Director Mueller participated in an event commemorating the FBI's 100th Anniversary in Washington, D.C.



Attorney General Urges Congress to Act on National Security

Highlights from the Attorney General's Speech:

"Today, I would like to discuss one particular institutional challenge that we still face—the continued detention of enemy combatants after the Supreme Court's recent decision in Boumediene v. Bush. In that decision, the Court ruled that the 275 or so enemy combatants detained at Guantanamo Bay have a constitutional right to challenge their detention in federal court through petitions for habeas corpus. The Supreme Court said explicitly, however, that it was not deciding questions relating to how those habeas corpus proceedings must be conducted."

"Unless Congress acts, the lower federal courts will determine the specific procedural rules that will govern the more than 200 cases that are now pending. With so many cases, there is a serious risk of inconsistent rulings and considerable uncertainty. . . . [W]ithout guidance from the Congress, different judges even on the same court will disagree about how the difficult questions left open by Boumediene should be answered. Such disagreement will, in turn, lead to a long period of protracted litigation—with the possibility of different procedures being used in different cases—until, perhaps, the Supreme Court intervenes yet again."

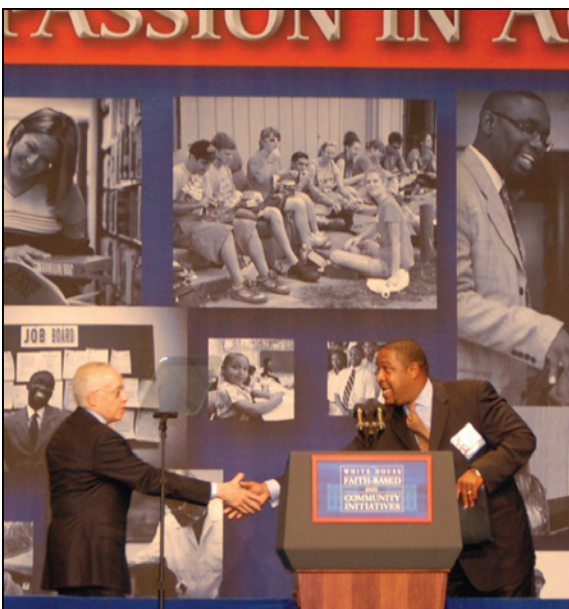
"So today, I am urging Congress to act – to resolve the difficult questions left open by the Supreme Court. I am urging Congress to pass legislation to ensure that the proceedings mandated by the Supreme Court are conducted in a responsible and prompt way and, as the Court itself urged, in a practical way."



On July 21, 2008, Attorney General Mukasey delivered remarks on National Security at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C. Picture by Peter Holden Photography for AEI.

On June 26, 2008, Attorney General Mukasey addressed the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives National Conference in Washington, D.C. The Attorney General is greeted above by Rev. Jonathan Ford, Executive Director of Turning the Tide in Philadelphia.

On July 1, 2008, Attorney General Mukasey delivered remarks in Indianapolis, Indiana at the National Sheriffs' Institute Graduates Dinner, which was sponsored by the National Sheriffs' Association. (From left to right: Tom Beauclair, Deputy Director of the National Institute of Corrections; The Attorney General; Sheriff Aaron Kennard, NSA Executive Director; Sheriff Craig Webre, NSA Immediate Past President).



Office on Violence Against Women Metropolitan Summit



On July 17, 2008, Attorney General Mukasey and Cindy Dyer, Director of the Office on Violence Against Women, delivered remarks at the Metropolitan Regional Summit II in Washington, D.C., addressing the collaboration among regional agencies serving victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. This year's theme was "Different Roles, Same Goals."

Highlights from the Attorney General's Speech:

"It is an unfortunate fact that domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking do not know any geographic boundaries and are not impeded by them. A coordinated response by law enforcement is critical to investigate and prosecute these crimes, and to ensure that victims and justice are served most effectively."

"Let me be clear: the Department of Justice is committed to fighting violence against women. We are committed to strengthening the criminal justice response, to holding offenders accountable, and to keeping victims safe. All three of these components are essential to our work, and all of you are essential to this strategy. We are proud to be your partner and to offer you any assistance we can."

"The men and women of law enforcement have a special role in coordinating this response. By spending the last two days at this summit getting to know one another, sharing ideas, building new partnerships, and strengthening existing ones, you can help build the relationships that will enhance the region's response to violence against women in all of the ugly forms it takes."

Largest Settlement in Forest Fire Case Announced

Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) will pay the United States \$102 million to settle a civil lawsuit brought by the government to recover damages connected with the 2000 Storrie forest fire in the Plumas and Lassen National Forests in Northern California, U.S. Associate Attorney General Kevin O'Connor, U.S. Department of Agriculture Undersecretary Mark Rey and U.S. Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced on July 22, 2008. The settlement is the largest recovery in U.S. Forest Service history in a forest fire case. The government's complaint alleged that the fire started as a result of a midday railroad track repair operation by UP employees who failed to take the necessary precautions to prevent the fire.

The Eastern District of California, recognized as being on the forefront of pursuing recoveries from forest fires, was recently selected to receive special funding from the Department of Justice. Earlier this year, the Department created special Fire Recovery Litigation Teams in the U.S. Attorney's Offices for the Eastern District of California, the Central District of California and the District of Utah, to enhance the fire recovery litigation efforts already taking place in those districts.

"The Fire Recovery Litigation Teams will enable the U.S. Attorney's Offices in those three districts to hire additional attorneys and support staff to focus solely on fire recovery cases because the Department of Justice recognizes the value of these cases to the taxpayers," said Associate Attorney General O'Connor.

Final Guidelines for Sex Offender Registration and Notification

On July 1, 2008, the Department of Justice announced the final guidelines for Title I of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA). The Guidelines provide necessary tools for states, the District of Columbia, territories and certain federally recognized Indian tribes to incorporate SORNA minimum requirements into their sex offender registration and notification programs.

The final guidelines and additional information on significant changes can be found at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/smart>.

ARTICLES - Office of Public Affairs and Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison

PICTURES - Page 1 photo courtesy of U.S. Marshalls Service; Page 2 and Page 3 White House photos courtesy of White House Photography; Page 2 FBI photo by DOJ Photography; Page 3 American Enterprise Institute (AEI) photo courtesy of Peter Holden Photography for AEI; Page 4 photo courtesy of OVW