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*Via Facsimile, E-mail
and United States Mail*

Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Mr. Eric Holder
Nominee for Attorney General

Dear Chairman Leahy:

You need to know that Eric Holder, now nominated to become Attorney General, played a key role in covering up the torture-murder of my brother, Kenneth Michael Trentadue. You also need to know that Mr. Holder did this while serving as Deputy Attorney General and Acting Attorney General from 1997-2001.

This is not just my shocking opinion. It is also the opinion of many Americans. More importantly, it is supported by the Justice Department's records and actions that came to light as a result of my family's efforts to obtain a certain measure of justice for my brother's murder.

Kenneth was killed in Oklahoma City in August of 1995. My family has spent over 13 years investigating my brother's gruesome murder, including bringing a wrongful death lawsuit in federal court in 1997. In that case, the Justice Department hid and destroyed evidence that would have exposed my brother's murders, and we believe that Mr. Holder was directly involved in those acts of obstruction of justice.¹

To this day, however, despite the efforts of my family, numerous journalists, and Congress, the Justice Department has been able to hide this terrible story -- and its culpability in

¹ Despite the destruction of evidence, the court awarded my family a \$1 million judgment. We have used that money to offer a \$250,000 reward for the people who killed Kenney. That offer is posted at: www.kmtreward.com. This site also contains the irrefutable evidence that my brother was murdered, which evidence was kept from us by the Justice Department.

the death of my brother Kenneth. More importantly, then Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder was assigned to be the point man in blocking my family's efforts to bring my brother Kenneth Trentadue's murderers to justice. Now, incredibly, President-elect Barack Obama has nominated Eric Holder to be the new Attorney General.

The paper trail on Mr. Holder's actions is scant. However, e-mails and handwritten notes by those working under Mr. Holder in the Justice Department have surfaced. These documents paint a clear picture of a wide-ranging and cynical scheme, run directly by Mr. Holder, to quash my family's efforts to have my brother's murder investigated, and to deflect congressional oversight and media attention from the shocking circumstances of his death.²

According to these documents, a significant part of this plan involved Mr. Holder convincing Congress not to inquire into my brother's murder. The plan called for Mr. Holder to meet with Senator Hatch on October 9, 1997, just prior to the Justice Department's issuance of a *Press Release* announcing that the federal grand jury supposedly "investigating" my brother's murder had failed to charge anyone with this crime.³

The stated purpose of this meeting between Mr. Holder and Senator Hatch was to defuse Judiciary Committee oversight and media inquiry into the circumstances of my brother's death. In fact, one e-mail states that "we ain't looking for press on this. Hill takes priority."

But that meeting apparently did not go as planned by Mr. Holder, because the next day, October 10, 1997, Senator Hatch gave an exclusive interview to Fox News in which he spoke out against the results of the grand jury and the Justice Department's handling of the case:

I met with the Deputy Attorney General just last night on this. . . . All of this is very, very upsetting to a lot of people, including myself. Now, we haven't had a hearing on this lately because of the ongoing federal investigation. But now that the federal people have completed their analysis of this and their investigation, I think we will hold a hearing between now and the end of the year and just see what we can do to get to the bottom of this. . . . There

² Those e-mails and handwritten notes were produced by the Justice Department in my family's civil suit. They are attached as the "*Trentadue Mission*," which is the name given to the operation by Mr. Holder and his team.

³ What that Justice Department *Press Release* did not say, however, was that the grand jury had secretly concluded in August 1997, and that Mr. Holder had immediately thereafter put in place a "roll out plan" to control Congress and the media once the grand jury results became public. Mr. Holder's team reported to him that the "*Trentadue mission*" was "like coordinating the invasion of Normandy." Those e-mails also refer to "meeting with the deputy to discuss trentadue-does" and "trentadon't."

is a lot wrong with this case and I hope somebody will get to the bottom of it. But apparently the federal government hasn't been able to do so. . . .Yep, it has the aroma of coverup. . . . And like I say, it does look bad. Somebody has not told the truth here and some-body is, in my opinion, covering up.⁴

Now, these are not my words or spin on what the Senator said. These are direct quotes from the then Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Senator Hatch was obviously unpersuaded by Mr. Holder's entreaties not to inquire into the circumstances of my brother's death and/or how that crime was investigated by the FBI. I say this not only because of the Senator's comments in the FOX News interview but also because later that same day, October 10, 1997, Senator Hatch issued a *Press Release* announcing his intention to schedule a hearing before the end of the year to **"examine the facts surrounding the death of Mr. Trentadue and the Department's handling of the matter to date."**

That Judiciary Committee hearing never happened. It did not take place because following Senator Hatch's public announcement, at the apparent urging of Mr. Holder, a delegation from the FBI approached Oklahoma Senator Don Nickles to ask for his assurances that there would be no Senate oversight.

There were two such secret meetings between Senator Nickles and FBI representatives, the first on December 4, 1997, and the second on January 23, 1998. We found out about these meetings as a result of documents produced in my family's lawsuit against the Justice Department. Those documents reveal that both meetings had been approved by FBI Headquarters and the Justice Department.

The first meeting lasted one hour and 45 minutes. Senator Nickles was not even a member of the Judiciary Committee. Yet, he is reported to have promised the FBI delegation **"that it would be his decision whether a Senate inquiry into this matter would be conducted . . . [and] he was not inclined to initiate such a review."**⁵

The foregoing record is troubling and raises many questions about the mind set and actions of the Justice Department when Mr. Holder was Deputy Attorney General and Acting Attorney General, including the maturity of those at the helm. Obviously, therefore, you and the

⁴ We have what is believed to be the only surviving copy of that videotaped interview, which has apparently never been aired.

⁵ The official FBI reports of those two visits to Senator Nickles are attached as "*Senator Nickles Documents*."

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other members of the Judiciary Committee should inquire into these matters during Mr. Holder's upcoming confirmation hearing.

No one could be less suitable to uphold the principles of justice in America than Eric Holder. And I would like the opportunity to appear before the Judiciary Committee to testify to that fact.



Jesse C. Trentadue

JCT/da
cc: Judiciary Committee Members
Media

Judiciary Letter.wpd