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## ACTION ALERT

**DATE:** November 8, 2007  
**TO:** Concerned Parties  
**FROM:** Hilary O. Shelton, Director,  
NAACP Washington Bureau

**Senate expected to vote on  
nomination in the next few days**

### **NAACP Opposes US Attorney General Nominee Michael Mukasey**

**UNANSWERED QUESTIONS ON TORTURE AND USE OF WARRANTLESS  
SEARCHES OF AMERICAN CITIZENS RAISE GRAVE CONCERNS ON KEY CIVIL  
RIGHTS, CIVIL LIBERTIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES**

#### **THE ISSUE:**

President George W. Bush has nominated Judge Michael B. Mukasey to succeed Alberto Gonzalez as Attorney General for the United State. Due to his refusal to condemn waterboarding as torture, endorsed broad assertions of executive authority, and failure to make firm commitments to the enforcement of civil rights at his Senate confirmation hearing earlier this month hearing and in his responses to written questions, the NAACP opposes his confirmation.

The NAACP is deeply concerned that Judge Mukasey's refusal to state unequivocally that waterboarding is torture, along with his apparent willingness to allow the Administration to engage in warrantless surveillance of persons in the United States in violation of congressional laws does not speak well of his willingness to protect Americans' civil rights or civil liberties. This, combined with Judge Mukasey's ambiguous responses with respect to questions regarding how he would improve civil rights enforcement, is at the heart of the NAACP's opposition.

Civil and voting rights enforcement have been low priorities within the Department of Justice for too long, making it especially important that the next Attorney General be committed to the vigorous and unbiased enforcement of those laws. Unfortunately, during his confirmation hearing Judge Mukasey failed to offer solutions to the extremely low number of cases brought by the Civil Rights Division on behalf of women and racial and ethnic minorities in employment discrimination cases. Furthermore, on an issue as central to the civil right community as voting rights, Judge Mukasey would not commit to the straightforward proposition that a voter identification requirement that disproportionately impacts minorities could violate Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. His responses to questions concerning civil and voting rights enforcement evidenced little understanding of the problems that currently plague the Civil Rights Division, and have led the NAACP to be concerned that he will not take the necessary steps to improve this vital, yet faltering, division of the US Department of Justice.

[More...](#)

## **THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:**

Contact both your Senators and **URGE THEM TO OPPOSE THE CONFIRMATION OF JUDGE MICHAEL B. MUKASEY AS U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL.** To contact your Senators and you may:

### ✓ **Make a Phone Call:**

Call your Senators in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and asking to be transferred to your Senators' offices. The switchboard phone number is **(202) 224-3121** (see message section, below).

NO TIME  
TO SEND  
A  
LETTER!

CALL,  
FAX OR  
E-MAIL  
TODAY!

### **Write a Letter**

To write letters to your Senators, send them to:  
The Honorable (name of Senator)  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**A SAMPLE  
LETTER IS  
ATTACHED**

### **Send a Fax**

If you would like to send a fax, call your Senators' offices (through the Capitol switchboard) and ask for their fax numbers (you can use either the attached sample letter or the message box, below).

### ✓ **Send an E-Mail**

To send an e-mail to your Senators, go to [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov); click on "*Find Your Senators*". Look up your Senators by state; go to their web sites for e-mail addresses.

REMEMBER TO CONTACT BOTH YOUR SENATORS!!!!

## **THE MESSAGE**

- ❖ Judge Mukasey's refusal to state unequivocally that waterboarding is torture, along with his apparent willingness to allow the Administration to engage in warrantless surveillance of persons in the United States in violation of congressional laws does not speak well of his willingness to protect Americans' civil rights or civil liberties.
- ❖ Judge Mukasey's responses to questions concerning civil and voting rights enforcement posed to him during the Senate confirmation hearing evidenced little understanding of the problems that currently plague the Civil Rights Division.
- ❖ Civil and voting rights enforcement have been low priorities within the Department of Justice for too long, making it especially important that the next Attorney General be committed to the vigorous and unbiased enforcement of those laws.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER!!!  
If you have any questions, call Hilary Shelton at the Washington Bureau at (202) 463-2940.

**MEMBERSHIP IS POWER! JOIN THE NAACP TODAY.**

To become an NAACP member or to sign up for e-mail legislative and press updates, visit [www.naacp.org](http://www.naacp.org)

## Sample Letter

(date)

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

### **RE: OPPOSITION TO THE NOMINATION OF JUDGE MICHAEL MUKASEY AS U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_;

As your constituent, I am writing to let you know of my opposition to the nomination of Judge Michael B. Mukasey to serve as Attorney General for the United States, and to urge you to oppose the confirmation when it comes before you on the Senate floor. Judge Mukasey is the wrong man for the job, and we as a Nation can, and must, do better when selecting the person we choose to enforce our laws.

Judge Mukasey's refusal to state unequivocally that waterboarding is torture, along with his apparent willingness to allow the Administration to engage in warrantless surveillance of persons in the United States in violation of congressional laws does not speak well of his willingness to protect Americans' civil rights or civil liberties. Furthermore, Judge Mukasey's responses to questions concerning civil and voting rights enforcement posed to him during the Senate confirmation hearing evidenced little understanding of the problems that currently plague the Civil Rights Division. Civil and voting rights enforcement have been low priorities within the Department of Justice for too long, making it especially important that the next Attorney General be committed to the vigorous and unbiased enforcement of those laws.

Again, I urge you to oppose Judge Mukasey's nomination and to encourage the President to find an individual who is more committed to protecting the civil rights and civil liberties of all Americans. Please contact me in the near future to let me know what you have done on this important issue and what you intend to do to help protect and promote the rights of all Americans.

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and  
remember to include your address)

*Remember to contact  
BOTH your Senators.*