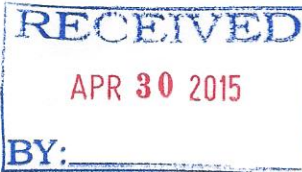




U. S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division



Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

APR 23 2015

Dr. Marlese Durr, Ph.D.
President
The Society for Study of Social Problems
University of Tennessee
901 McClung Tower
Knoxville, TN 37996-0490

Dear Dr. Durr:

This responds to your letter to the Attorney General dated December 19, 2014, expressing concern about the deaths of Michael Brown, Eric Garner, and others at the hands of police officers. We apologize for our delay in responding to your letter.

The Criminal Section enforces the federal criminal civil rights statutes. Much of our enforcement activity relates to the investigation and prosecution of deprivations of civil rights under color of law. These matters generally involve allegations of excessive physical force by law enforcement officers. The Criminal Section also enforces the federal criminal civil rights statutes that pertain to violent, bias-motivated crimes. We are committed to thoroughly and fairly investigating such allegations, and where the evidence warrants it, bringing charges and prosecuting those who violate federal criminal civil rights laws.

We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact the Department if we may be of assistance with this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

Vanita Gupta
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General