



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20535

AUG 3 1994

The Honorable Nicolas Escalante  
Consul of Mexico  
1990 West Camelback Road  
Phoenix, AZ 85015

Re: Gila County Jails - Globe and Payson, Arizona 73-37/732

Dear Consul Escalante:

This is in response to the referral of your complaint to the United States Attorney in Phoenix, Arizona, regarding conditions of confinement in the Gila County Jails, particularly concerning the conditions you noted with respect to Mexican nationals incarcerated in the Gila county jail system. United States Attorney Janet Napolitano has referred the matter to the Civil Rights Division for such action as may be appropriate.

Based upon information set forth in your letter, as well as other information obtained, I have authorized the Special Litigation Section of this Division to initiate an investigation of conditions of confinement in the Gila county jail system pursuant to the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1997 et seq. This Department is committed to providing humane, constitutionally acceptable conditions of confinement to all persons incarcerated in United States facilities without regard to nationality, race or citizenship status of persons incarcerated. The Immigration and Naturalization Service is also being notified of our intention to conduct an investigation of conditions in these county jail facilities.

Your referral of this matter to the Department of Justice is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Devan L. Patrick  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

CRIPA Investigation



JC-AZ-001-003



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Ms. Doris Meissner  
Commissioner  
Immigration and Naturalization Service  
425 I Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20536

Re: Gila County Jails - Globe and Payson, Arizona

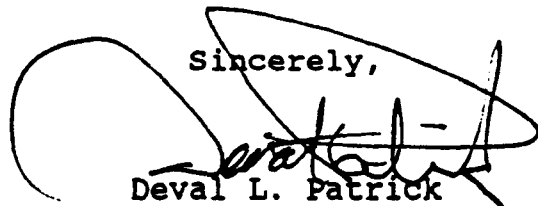
Dear Commissioner Meissner:

The Civil Rights Division has received complaints pertaining to conditions of confinement in the Gila County Jails, Globe and Payson, Arizona. Of particular interest to the Immigration and Naturalization Service is the complaint received from the Consul of Mexico regarding alleged unconstitutional conditions personally observed by him, and the continuing nature of these allegedly unlawful conditions. It is our understanding that the INS rents jail space from this jurisdiction to hold detainees pending disposition of their citizenship status.

After review of the factual allegations concerning these facilities, I have determined that the Special Litigation Section of this Division will conduct an on-site investigation of the conditions of confinement at these facilities utilizing the expertise of consultants experienced in evaluating jail conditions. This investigation will be conducted pursuant to the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1997 et seq.

Because aliens as well as other inmates are entitled to constitutional conditions of confinement, this investigation will include, but will not be limited to, the matters raised by the Mexican Consul.

Sincerely,



Deval L. Patrick  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division