



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20035

MAY 3 1993

REGISTERED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Sammy Welch
President
Simpson County Board of Supervisors
Chancery Building
Mendenhall, MS 39114

Re: Investigation of the Simpson County Jail
in Mendenhall, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Welch:

I am writing to inform you of our intention to investigate conditions at the Simpson County Jail ("SCJ") in Mendenhall, Mississippi. The investigation is pursuant to the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act, 42 U.S.C. §1997-1997j (1982).

The purpose of the investigation will be to determine whether SCJ violates the constitutional rights of its inmates. The investigation will focus on, among other things, allegations concerning (1) supervision and surveillance of inmates by security guards, (2) various structural defects, especially with regard to suicide prevention, (3) conditions of confinement, (4) inadequate staffing, (5) lack of adequate fire-safety precautions, (6) medical care, and (7) use of inmates to supervise other inmates. Initiating this investigation in no way evidences any prejudgment that SCJ violates its inmates' constitutional rights. If any violations are found, however, we will confer with you and your staff concerning appropriate corrective actions.

As a means of commencing this investigation, we wish to arrange for our attorneys, consultants, and perhaps agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to visit and tour SCJ. We shall be in touch with your staff to work out the specifics of our initial investigation.

Rainer & U.S. v. Jones



JC-MS-006-001

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Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



James P. Turner
Acting Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

cc: Danny Welch, Esquire
Simpson County Attorney

Mr. Lloyd S. Jones
Simpson County Sheriff

George L. Phillips, Esquire
United States Attorney
Southern District
State of Mississippi