



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20035

MAY 3 1988

REGISTERED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Edgar Donahoe
President
Sunflower County Board
of Supervisors
200 Main Street
Indianola, MS 38751-0988

Re: Investigation of the Sunflower County Jail
in Indianola, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Donahoe:

I am writing to inform you of our intention to investigate conditions at the Sunflower County Jail ("SCJ") in Indianola, 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) structural deficiencies, (2) conditions of confinement, and (3) lack of adequate fire-safety precautions. 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

U.S. v. Sunflower Co.

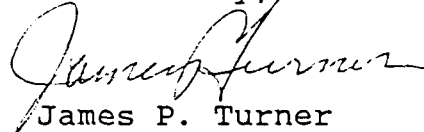


JC-MS-016-001

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.

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



James P. Turner
Acting Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

cc: Jane R. McWilliams, Esquire
Sunflower County Attorney

Mr. Ned Holder
Sunflower County Sheriff

Alfred E. Moreton III, Esquire
United States Attorney
Northern District
State of Mississippi