



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

U.S. v. Puerto Rico



Jl-PR-004-001

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

OCT 9 1991

REGISTERED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Honorable Raphael Hernandez-Colon  
Governor  
Commonwealth of Puerto Rico  
La Fortaleza  
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00901

Re: Investigation of Juvenile Detention  
Facilities in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

Dear Governor Hernandez-Colon:

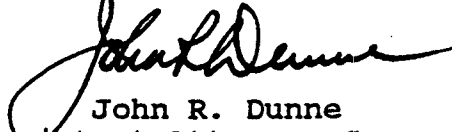
I am writing to let you know of our intention to investigate conditions within the following three juvenile detention facilities in the Commonwealth: (1) The Industrial School for Boys and Girls in Ponce; (2) The Juvenile Detention Center in Humacao; and (3) The Central Treatment Center in Guaynabo. This investigation is pursuant to the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act, 42 U.S.C. §1997 et. seq.

The purpose of this investigation will be to determine whether there exist any violations of the federal constitutional rights of juveniles residing in these facilities. Our investigation will focus on allegations relating to the following areas: (1) juvenile abuse by staff; (2) juvenile violence within the institutions; (3) inadequate medical treatment; and (4) undue risks of harm to juveniles from fires. The initiation of this investigation in no way indicates any prejudgment on our part that constitutional rights have been violated. If any violations are found, we will look forward to conferring with you and your staff concerning corrective actions that might be appropriate.

Our attorneys have already met with representatives of your office with respect to our investigation of four other juvenile detention facilities in Puerto Rico, of which we notified you by letter dated February 13, 1991. I have asked them to contact Deputy Attorney General Rafael Pont Marchese to coordinate our investigation of these three additional facilities.

I greatly appreciate your continuing cooperation in these matters.

Sincerely,

  
John R. Dunne  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

cc: Dr. Mercedes Cintron  
Administrator  
Administrator for Juvenile Institutions

Rafael Pont Marchese, Esquire  
Deputy Attorney General  
Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

Honorable Carmen Sonia Zayas  
Secretary of Social Services

Daniel F. Lopez-Romo, Esquire  
U.S. Attorney

Mrs. Elia Vega, Director  
Industrial School For Boys and Girls

Mr. Julio Cualio Bonet, Director  
Social Treatment Center in Guaynabo

Mr. Hector Garcia, Director  
Juvenile Detention Center in Huamacao