

January 4, 2005

**Statement to Judiciary Committee Members
from Ad Hoc Coalition on Gonzales Nomination**

We are a coalition of organizations concerned about the nomination of White House Counsel Alberto Gonzales as Attorney General. We encourage the Judiciary Committee to closely scrutinize Judge Gonzales's record, positions and future plans for the Department of Justice.

We urge you not to make your decision on the Gonzales nomination until the hearings are complete and there is an opportunity to fully assess his testimony and the implications for our country.

The January 6 hearing will establish whether Judge Gonzales meets the expectations for "responsiveness" and "accountability" articulated by Senator Leahy. If Judge Gonzales fails to adequately respond to questions raised by members of the Judiciary Committee, and does not demonstrate views fundamentally different from those contained in legal memos he has previously written or approved, we believe there may be no alternative but to oppose the nomination.

The Senate has a constitutional obligation to advise and consent as a co-equal partner with the President in the review of cabinet appointments. The nominee for Attorney General must clearly explain how he will interpret and enforce the laws and how he will develop policy. If he fails to assure the American people of his commitment to the rule of law, we will urge you to vote against confirmation.

Nan Aron
President
Alliance for Justice

Philip Fornaci
Executive Director
DC Prisoners Legal Services, Inc.

Mark Agrast
Senior Vice President
American Progress Action Fund

Susan Henderson
Managing Director
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund

Robin G. Steinberg
Executive Director
The Bronx Defenders

Gay McDougall
Executive Director
Global Rights

Leslie Jackson
Director, Civil Rights and Fair Practices
Communications Workers of America

Louise Kantrow
Executive Director
International League for Human Rights

Michael Israel
Editor
The Criminal Justice Washington Letter

Kathy Rodgers
President
Legal Momentum

Diann Rust-Tierney
Executive Director
**National Coalition to Abolish the Death
Penalty**

Kim Gandy
President
National Organization for Women

Morton Halperin
Director
Open Society Policy Center

Ron Schlittler
Interim Executive Director
**Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians
and Gays, National Office**

Jenni Gainsborough
Washington Office Director
Penal Reform International

Todd Howland
Executive Director
RFK Memorial Center for Human Rights

Ross Wilson
Legislative Director
Students for Sensible Drug Policy