



League of United Latin American Citizens

NATIONAL PRESIDENT
Rosa Rosales

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Brent A. Wilkes

NATIONAL OFFICERS
Hector Flores
Immediate Past President
Jaime P. Martinez
Treasurer
Joey Ramirez
Youth President
Richard Fimbres
VP for Elderly
Margaret Moran
VP for Women
Javier Montanez
VP for Youth
Michelle M. Pelayo
VP for Young Adults
Dave Rodriguez
VP for Farwest
Alicia Rios
VP for Midwest
Toula Politis Lugo
VP for Northeast
Maria Rodriguez-Salazar
VP for Northwest
Haydee Rivera
VP for Southeast
Adrian Rodriguez
VP for Southwest

STATE DIRECTORS
Enrique P. Gomez
Arizona
Carlos F. Cervantes
Arkansas
Angel G. Luevano
California
Tom Duran
Colorado
Ada Peña
District of Columbia
Anita De Palma
Florida
Eligio Marin
Illinois
Maria de los angeles Oria
Indiana
Gilbert Sierra
Iowa
Rodrigo Bonilla
Kansas
Annabelle Guerra
Massachusetts
Augustin Sanchez
Michigan
Enrique Soto
Minnesota
Hortencia Vasquez Wilcox
Missouri
Nicolas Martinez
Nevada
Paul A. Martinez
New Mexico
Rosa Torres Caskey
Ohio
Rey Madrid
Oklahoma
Carmen I. Cruz
Puerto Rico
Roger C. Rocha
Texas
Leni Gonzalez
Virginia
David G. Cortinas
Washington
Yolanda Santos Adams
Wisconsin

May 2, 2007

Wan Kim
Assistant Attorney-General for Civil Rights
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Kim:

The League of United Latin American Citizens, our nation's oldest and largest Hispanic civil rights organization, writes to you today with our greatest regret and sorrow. We are saddened to have watched in horror the violence that erupted in yesterday's peaceful immigration rally in Los Angeles' MacArthur Park. It is even more troubling to have learned from witnesses that the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) failed to act professionally and demonstrate restraint when they inexcusably attacked innocent bystanders, including children and television reporters as they tried to get away. LULAC formally requests a prompt and independent investigation from the Department of Justice to investigate the LAPD's hasty decision to fire at and beat down peaceful demonstrators.

This march was meant to be a peaceful demonstration, but instead led to inexcusable disorder and acts of violence by the LAPD. Tapings of this incident showed police officers pushing, kicking, and trampling innocent people as they desperately tried to get out of the police's way. While LAPD Chief William Bratton said that "certain elements of the crowd" might have provoked this incident by throwing rocks and bottles at them, it still does not excuse the police's hasty reaction committed against the majority of people that *had* behaved appropriately.

Shelling rubber bullets on the stomachs and backs at a peaceful crowd should not be tolerated. The LAPD should have known better, and should have acted with diligence and order.

It is imperative that you investigate this ugly incident. Innocent bystanders should not have been hurt and targeted in a peaceful march. We urge that you listen to our request in order to find justice in this horrible atrocity.

Sincerely,

Rosa Rosales
LULAC National President