



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D.C. 20530

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A MESSAGE FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

As Attorney General of the United States, it is my honor and my privilege to lead the Department of Justice as we take on some of the most difficult issues facing the American people. From threats against our homeland, to attacks on our information networks; and from tension in our communities, to the scourge of human trafficking, the United States is grappling with a variety of serious, complex, and evolving challenges. On all of these issues, and many more, the Department of Justice is committed to taking strong and effective action.

Our highest priority must always be the security of our nation against threats to our well-being. At the Department of Justice, we are taking decisive action to defuse threats as they emerge and to thwart attacks before they occur – at home, abroad, and online. We are working tirelessly to expose and disrupt plots that target our people, our infrastructure, and our information networks. And we are aggressively investigating and prosecuting individuals for conduct related to foreign-fighter activity and homegrown violent extremism, charging more than 70 individuals since 2013.

Even as we take these important steps to protect our homeland, we are also expanding our focus on combating security threats in cyberspace. We are working with the FBI and the U.S. Secret Service to investigate and prosecute the most serious cyber intrusions. We have created a new cybersecurity unit within our Criminal Division's Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section and announced a National Security Division outreach initiative to promote information sharing and resilience. And I have personally met with corporate executives and general counsels around the country to raise awareness of cyber-related issues; to encourage strategic collaboration; and to explore new and innovative methods for protecting American consumers and defending our information networks.

Of course, to bring about the stronger nation we seek, we must also empower the communities within our borders by fostering positive relationships between law enforcement officers and the residents we serve. That's why the Department of Justice is advancing vital programs like the National Initiative for Building Community Trust and Justice, which is investing in new modes of training; refining strategies based on rigorous evidence; and working to drive policies that will enhance procedural justice, reduce implicit bias, and encourage racial reconciliation. Our Civil Rights Division is engaging constructively with police departments nationwide to ensure constitutional policing. Our COPS Office's Collaborative Reform Initiative for Technical Assistance is offering expanded service and tailored support. And during the first 100 days of my tenure, I conducted a six-city community policing tour to connect with communities that have made progress in this area and to discuss some of the most effective ways that citizens and law enforcement can join forces to foster trust, to build respect, and to spread mutual understanding.

Beyond our local outreach, we are continuing vital work in criminal justice reform at the federal level. Through the Smart on Crime initiative that my predecessor, Attorney General Eric Holder, launched in 2013, we shifted our approach away from harsh mandatory sentences for low-level drug offenses and refocused on more serious cases and the most violent defendants, while better supporting rehabilitation and reentry

programs that can reduce recidivism and promote public safety. We're hoping to make a similarly positive impact in justice reform through a new initiative that will strengthen our ability to go after individual defendants both criminally and civilly in connection with investigations of corporate misconduct. Under our new rules, any company seeking cooperation credit will be required to investigate and identify the individuals involved in the company's misconduct, and then provide all non-privileged evidence about those individuals. These new policies will help us bring wrongdoers to justice, while acting as a deterrent to corporate malfeasance.

Finally, we are committed to ensuring that the law's protections reach our most vulnerable populations. The Department is working tirelessly to support the victims of hate crimes, sexual violence, and human trafficking – a reprehensible offense that is appropriately described as modern-day slavery. Through the Anti-Trafficking Coordination Team Initiative, we're working closely with the Departments of Labor and Homeland Security to strengthen interagency cooperation and to break human trafficking rings. Through our Enhanced Collaborative Model, we're promoting a holistic approach to the broader trafficking challenge by bringing law enforcement together with victims' services groups. And through partnerships with state and local agencies, NGOs, and our foreign law enforcement counterparts, we are assisting victims, reuniting families, and bringing perpetrators to justice.

Prepared pursuant to the Reports Consolidation Act of 2000 and guidance in Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circulars A-11, A-123, and A-136, the FY 2015 Department of Justice Agency Financial Report contains our audited consolidated financial statements, as required by the Chief Financial Officers Act and the Government Management Reform Act, and a statement of assurance regarding our internal controls and financial management systems, as required by the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA).

In FY 2015, the Department earned an unmodified, i.e., "clean" audit opinion on our consolidated financial statements. For the ninth straight year, the auditor's report on internal control identified no material weaknesses at the consolidated level. While we continue as a Department to demonstrate noteworthy progress, we are committed to pursuing actions to correct remaining areas where we have deficiencies.

The Department conducted its annual assessment of the effectiveness of internal controls to support effective and efficient programmatic operations, reliable financial reporting, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations (FMFIA § 2). The Department also assessed whether its financial management systems conform to financial system requirements (FMFIA § 4). Based on the results of the assessments, we can provide qualified assurance that the Department's internal controls and financial management systems meet the objectives of the FMFIA. The assessment of systems did not identify any non-conformances required to be reported under FMFIA § 4; however, the assessment of internal controls identified one programmatic material weakness required to be reported under FMFIA § 2 related to prison crowding. In addition, we can provide reasonable assurance that the Department's internal control over financial reporting met the objectives of OMB Circular A-123, Appendix A.

The financial and performance data presented in this report are complete and reliable, highlighting the Department's accomplishments for the American public. We will not rest on our achievements, but will remain unyielding in our efforts to safeguard national security, to fight cybercrime, to strengthen relationships between our law enforcement partners and those they serve, to protect our most vulnerable citizens, and to carry out the entirety of our critical mission.



Loretta E. Lynch
Attorney General