



**The Attorney General**  
Washington, D.C.

March 1, 2007

The Honorable Glenn A. Fine  
Inspector General  
Office of the Inspector General  
United States Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Fine:

I appreciate your work and the opportunity to comment on your Review of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Use of National Security Letters.

The problems identified in your review are serious and must be addressed immediately. I have spoken with FBI Director Bob Mueller about your findings and recommendations. He already has taken specific steps to correct past mistakes and to ensure that the Bureau will use National Security Letters (NSLs) in an appropriate manner in compliance with all applicable laws and internal policy requirements.

I have asked the Department's National Security Division and the Privacy and Civil Liberties Office to work with the Bureau in implementing these corrective actions and to consider any further review and reforms that are needed. They will report to me regularly on their progress. In addition, I ask that you report to me in four months on the FBI's implementation of your recommendations.

Your review also evaluated the effectiveness of NSLs and rightly found them to have "contributed significantly to many counterterrorism and counterintelligence investigations." NSLs are vital investigative tools and are critical to our efforts to fight and win the war on terror. They can and must be used appropriately and in a manner that protects the civil liberties of all Americans. I have confidence in the Director's ability to implement the changes necessary to ensure the proper use of these authorities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Gonzales". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and a long, sweeping tail.

Alberto R. Gonzales