



# National Postal Mail Handlers Union

## THE BREAKDOWN

March 19, 2007

The Honorable Alberto Gonzales Attorney General  
United States Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20535

Re: Congressional Requests for Briefing on FBI's Anthrax Investigation  
Dear General Gonzales:

We write to request your favorable response to ongoing Congressional requests for a briefing by the Federal Bureau of Investigation on the state of its inquiry into the anthrax attacks that occurred in the fall of 2001.

Our organizations represent the interests of the 800,000 employees of the U.S. Postal Service, engaged in collecting, sorting and delivering the mail. The anthrax attacks killed five persons, including two postal employees, and threatened the safety of countless others. Since the time of the attacks, we have worked closely with the Postal Service to better protect the postal system and its employees through the installation of bioterrorism detection equipment and other measures. Our interests in the underlying anthrax attacks, however, extend well beyond the prevention of bioterrorism. We deeply want to assure that justice is satisfied through the prosecution of those who were responsible for the anthrax attacks. That is why we have become increasingly concerned by the Bureau's continued refusal to deliver a comprehensive briefing to appropriate Committees and Members of Congress on the status of its investigation into the underlying events. We believe that these Congressional requests for information are fair and reasonable. We have become especially alarmed that nearly four years have transpired since the Bureau's last briefing to Congress on the anthrax investigation. At times in the past in other pending criminal investigations, the Bureau has provided briefings and related information to Congress without jeopardy to the disclosure of sensitive material at the heart of its investigation. We are confident that similar, appropriate measures can be employed here to assure that Congress receives a timely and sufficient understanding of the Bureau's investigative efforts into the anthrax attacks, without fear of compromise of the Bureau's underlying investigation or related litigation. We therefore urge your prompt and favorable action upon pending Congressional requests for a briefing on the Bureau's investigative efforts into the anthrax attacks. Ongoing confidence in the Bureau's efforts and proper respect between the legislative and executive branches of government demands such a response.

Sincerely,

William Burrus President American Postal Workers Union  
William H. Young President National Association of Letter Carriers  
Ted Keating President National Association of Postal Supervisors  
Dale Goff President National Association of Postmasters of the United States  
Charles F. Mapa President National League of Postmasters  
John F. Hegarty President National Postal Mail Handlers Union  
Donnie Pitts President National Rural Letter Carriers' Association  
cc: The Honorable Robert Mueller Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

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