



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

November 16, 2009

The Honorable Frank Wolf
Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Wolf:

This is in response to your letter of November 10, 2009, which inquired about the status of the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) inquiry regarding the government's voluntary dismissals in *United States v. New Black Panther Party for Self-Defense, et al.*, and your letter of November 16, 2009, which requested copies of certain materials you describe as having been prepared for OPR in connection with that inquiry. A separate letter has been sent to Representative Smith, who joined your November 10 letter to us.

Your letters have been referred to the Office of Professional Responsibility for reply. To ensure the independence of the OPR inquiry, we do not believe it would be appropriate for other Department officials to attempt to set arbitrary deadlines on OPR's work, or to provide copies of any materials that may have been prepared in connection with its inquiry. We are therefore unable to provide the information or documents you have requested, and we will continue to await the outcome of the OPR process before providing a further response to your requests for information regarding this matter.

Please be assured that the Department is committed to vigorous enforcement of the Voting Rights Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald Weich".

Ronald Weich
Assistant Attorney General

cc: The Honorable Alan B. Mollohan, Jr.
Chairman