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May 29, 2009

The Honorable Eric H. Holder
Attorney General of the United States
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 5111
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

As Congress continues to debate the disposition of the Guantanamo Bay detention facility, I write to request additional information regarding a statement the President made during his May 21 speech on national security. The President stated, "[O]ur federal 'supermax' prisons...hold hundreds of convicted terrorists." I request that you provide me with the names of the terrorists currently held in federal prisons, the details of their crimes, and their location.

While it is well known that World Trade Center bomber Ramzi Yousef, the so-called 20th hijacker Zacarias Moussaoui, and a handful of other Islamist terrorist figures are serving sentences in federal prisons, it is not my understanding that there are "hundreds" of federal inmates who have been convicted of a level of terrorism comparable to that of Guantanamo detainees.

I believe that a comparison of terrorists in federal prisons to terrorists detained at Guantanamo is instructive only if the severity of their actions and their backgrounds and allegiances are equivalent. Details regarding the terrorists currently imprisoned in the United States would provide needed clarity on this point.

As Congress considers this issue, it is important that we have all relevant information at our disposal. I would greatly appreciate your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,



JON KYL
United States Senator

JK:gf