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June 6, 2008

The Honorable Michael B. Mukasey  
Attorney General of the United States  
United States Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Mukasey:

This week the Government staged arraignments of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and other detainees charged as perpetrators of the 9/11 attacks. I read that the victims' families were excluded from the proceedings.

I have worked hard for many years to enact bipartisan victims' rights and assistance legislation. I had hoped we had achieved a level of respect for victims' rights that would respect their dignity and interests. I am writing to you to urge you to help remedy these matters without delay.

After the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, we passed several measures to provide for the rights and interests of the victims and their families, including measures to help them attend the trial, and to watch the trial on closed circuit television. I do not understand why similar provisions were not made for the 9/11 families and victims.

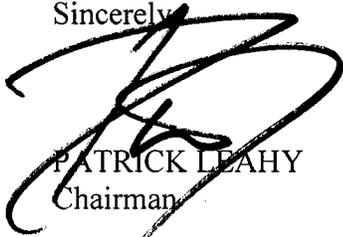
We also enacted, as part of the Justice for All Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-405), federal rights for victims. In the Scott Campbell, Stephanie Roper, Wendy Preston, Louarna Gillis, and Nila Lynn Crime Victims' Rights Act, we expressly provided for the right to reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of any public court proceeding; the right not to be excluded from any such public court proceeding; the right to be reasonably heard at any public proceeding involving release, plea, sentencing, or parole; the reasonable right to confer with the attorney for the Government in the case; the right to full and timely restitution as provided in law; the right to proceedings free from unreasonable delay; and the right to be treated with fairness and with respect for the victim's dignity and privacy.

I write to you, our chief law enforcement officer, to ask what has been done to ensure that the 9/11 victims are being treated with respect and dignity, and what accommodations were made to protect their rights, given that the Government has chosen to proceed before military commissions at Guantanamo.

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I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



PATRICK LEAHY  
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Robert Gates  
Secretary of Defense

*Judge - These measures  
are important to  
victims.*

