



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D.C.

September 1, 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE EMPLOYEES

FROM:

Alberto R. Gonzales
Attorney General

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. R. Gonzales", written over the printed name.

SUBJECT:

Assistance for Hurricane Katrina Victims

We are all greatly saddened by the devastating impact caused by Hurricane Katrina in the Gulf Coast area. The loss of lives and destruction of property is overwhelming. Response and recovery will take a massive collective effort, involving a significant amount of time and resources.

Many of you have inquired about the best way to provide assistance to those affected. The best means at this time is through cash contributions directly to relief organizations, which are working in the affected areas. In a recent statement, the President identified two national organizations, the American Red Cross at www.redcross.org, and the Salvation Army at www.salvationarmyusa.org. Both have been mobilized to care for those in need. In addition, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has developed a list at www.fema.gov, which is being continually updated and provides instructions on how to provide immediate donations and assistance to those in need.

Many of our Department of Justice employees have also been directly affected by Katrina. The Department is establishing a fund, which will assist our employees and their families directly, and which will allow designation of gifts to specific components within DOJ. Information on how to contribute to this fund will be provided early in the day tomorrow.

Finally, you may also want to give through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). You will find many worthwhile national charitable organizations that provide short- and long-term disaster relief in the CFC Catalog of Caring. This Catalog will be distributed within a few weeks throughout the Department. You can contribute cash or authorize payroll deductions.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to those who have lost loved ones and to all who have been impacted. Thank you in advance for your efforts, support, and generosity.