

KEN SALAZAR
COLORADO

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
FINANCE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

WASHINGTON, DC:
702 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-5852

COLORADO:
2300 15TH STREET
SUITE 450
DENVER, CO 80202
(303) 455-7600

<http://www.salazar.senate.gov>

September 23, 2008

Harley G. Lappin
Director
Federal Bureau of Prisons
320 First Street, NW
Washington, DC 20534

Dear Director Lappin:

I write to follow up on the Bureau of Prison's Board of Inquiry Report regarding the riot that took place at the United States Penitentiary (USP) in Florence, Colorado on April 20, 2008.

As you know, the riot that broke out in the recreation area of the USP endangered security personnel and left two inmates dead and five others severely injured. According to reports, hundreds of rounds of ammunition were fired to subdue the violence.

Pursuant to our conversation immediately following the incident, I would like a full briefing on the findings of the report once it is completed. I am specifically interested in the recommendations made pertaining to staffing levels at the USP, as well as the reforms the BOP intends to make in light of these findings.

In addition, I request that the report's conclusions be released to the public. The people of Colorado, especially those in the communities surrounding the USP, deserve the assurance that the BOP is taking the steps necessary to improve security at the facility and prevent terrible incidents like this in the future. Public disclosure of the conclusions of the report will ensure the BOP is accountable for its decisions relating to the USP going forward.

I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,


Ken Salazar
United States Senator