

SEPTEMBER 30, 1961

MR. BURKE MARSHALL
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

DEAR MR. MARSHALL:

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I AM VERY SURPRISED, ASTONISHED, AND DISTURBED BY YOUR LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 22, 1961. YOUR LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 22ND IS AN ANSWER TO OUR LETTERS AND REQUESTS OF MAY 14, AND A SECOND REQUEST OF JUNE 10TH, CONCERNING THE ACTIONS OF THE LIVE OAK COUNTY SHERIFF IN SHAVING THE HEADS OF THE LATIN-AMERICAN BOYS WHO WERE CONFINED IN JAIL. FRANKLY, I DISAGREE WITH YOU. THIS IS A VIOLATION OF THE 8TH AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION WHICH STATES: "EXCESSIVE BAIL SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED, NOR EXCESSIVE FINES IMPOSED, NOR CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENTS INFLICTED." THIS CERTAINLY IS A MOST UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT AND ALSO CRUEL WITH THE PURPOSE OF DEGRADING A HUMAN BEING. NEVERTHELESS, YOUR ACTIONS OF SUGGESTING TO US TO TAKE THIS MATTER UP WITH THE STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES SHOWS GREAT IGNORANCE, NAIVITY, AND FOOLISHNESS ON YOUR PART. CERTAINLY YOUR LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF THE CONDITIONS OF THE AMERICANS OF MEXICAN ORIGIN IN TEXAS IS SURPRISING. MR. MARSHALL, YOU ARE ASKING US TO TAKE UP THIS MATTER UP WITH THE SAME PEOPLE WHO HATE US, WHO INFLICT UPON US ACTS OF DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLATIONS OF ALL KINDS. YOU ARE ASKING US TO APPEAL TO THE HATCHET MEN AND OUR OPPRESSORS. IN ALL SERIOUSNESS, I BELIEVE THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DOES NOT HAVE ANYONE IN WASHINGTON WHO UNDERSTANDS OUR PROBLEMS. I HOPE THAT YOU OR MR. KENNEDY FIND ONE OR ELSE WE WILL STOP SENDING YOU CASES. OR IT COULD BE THAT SOME TEXAN IN BOB KENNEDY'S STAFF IS TRYING TO STOP ANY ACTION ON YOUR PART BY BRAINWASHING YOU OR TRYING TO POISON YOUR DEPARTMENT AGAINST US.

MR. BURKE MARSHALL

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WE HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OF DISCRIMINATION AND SEGREGATION FOR THE PAST 124 YEARS. OUR ONLY HOPE WAS THE FEDERAL COURTS AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE. I AM DISGUSTED WITH THE PRESENT CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION OF THIS ADMINISTRATION BECAUSE WE GOT MORE SATISFACTION AND MORE CASES INVESTIGATED AND SOLVED UNDER THE REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION.

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IN ALL SINCERITY AND WITH ALL RESPECT, I HOPE THAT YOU GET TOGETHER WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND DISCUSS THIS LETTER. IF YOU ARE NOT ACQUAINTED WITH OUR SITUATION HERE, PERMIT ME TO GO TO WASHINGTON TO ORIENT YOU AS TO THE TRUTH AND THE FACTS. IT TOOK YOU FOUR MONTHS TO COME OUT WITH A VERY BAD ANSWER.

HOPING FOR SOME ACTION FROM YOUR DEPARTMENT, I REMAIN

YOURS VERY TRULY,

Hector P. Garcia mD
HECTOR P. GARCIA, M. D.
FOUNDER, AMERICAN GI
FORUM OF THE UNITED STATES

HPG/AG

CC: ATTORNEY GENERAL ROBERT KENNEDY
AMERICAN GI FORUM NATIONAL OFFICERS