



The Attorney General of Texas

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AUSTIN---Attorney General Mark White said today that recent not-guilty verdicts in trials of Ku Klux Klan members in North Carolina should not be misinterpreted as a permit to violate laws in Texas.

"The political beliefs and philosophies of individuals are sacrosanct in the Constitution, but illegal activities on the part of any individual or group will not be condoned," White said. Texas law enforcement agencies are fully prepared and trained to enforce the law and maintain order in the State. I have been in close contact with local officials and with State law enforcement agencies concerning activities in a "survival school" paramilitary training camp near Anahuac in Chambers County, Texas. At this time, we have not confirmed any violation of State law. It is my understanding that federal officials also have been aware of these activities and are attempting to determine if any federal laws have been broken.

"Although there is not a State or federal law which would permit the closure of camps such as this one, there are federal laws which regulate the use of automatic weapons, and both State and federal laws which restrict unlawful or violent activity. The right to bear firearms legally has been treasured by Americans since the time of the Minuteman in our country. However, I intend to work with our law enforcement agencies and district attorneys to see that no individual or group will be permitted to engage in unlawful conduct or use illegal weapons. I also intend to actively support the investigation and prosecution of violent activities which involve such abuses."