

Illinois State Senate

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Napoleon B. Harris III

Senator
15th Legislative District

Honorable Loretta E. Lynch, Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

26 October 2015

Dear Attorney General Lynch,

Recent media reports have shed light on a Chicago police warehouse, Homan Square, where more than 7,000 people were detained from August 2004 to June 2015. A number of detainees have reported being denied basic human and constitutional rights.

The Department of Justice has dealt with a number of similar issues, such as the investigation of the Ferguson Police Department. I ask for an investigation of the police practices in Chicago with a special focus on Homan Square and the tactics used there.

Homan Square does not generate public booking records, which leaves relatives and lawyers without information for their relative or client's whereabouts. Arrestees held in Homan Square are disproportionately black, making up 85 percent of detentions over 11 years. Detainees have also reported being denied phone calls and being interrogated without their lawyer present.

I appreciate your time in considering this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Napoleon B. Harris III".

Senator Napoleon Harris III
Illinois State Senator, 15th District