

Statement on Alberto Gonzales' Resignation

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Statement on the Resignation of Attorney General Alberto Gonzales

"The resignation of U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales is an opportunity for President Bush to restore public confidence in the Justice Department. Unfortunately, Mr. Bush already missed his first chance to unite Americans when he chose to praise Gonzales and launch a thinly veiled attack against Congress during his first public acknowledgment of the news.

"By using his power at the Justice Department to unduly influence elections, Alberto Gonzales dragged the Justice Department through the mud. Now, President Bush must appoint someone who can clean up that mess—someone more loyal to the law than to politics, someone with the integrity to serve all Americans not just a President who gives him a nickname. Unfortunately, Bush's opening salvo indicates that he doesn't understand why the public lost faith in Gonzales or why Gonzales is under investigation by the U.S. Congress.

"Mr. Bush may be prepared to nominate another political crony to the office of Attorney General. For the good of our country, I certainly hope reason will prevail. Our nation is at war. Americans fear terrorist attacks on our homeland. We are concerned about how to address illegal immigration. We are debating where to draw the line between security and respect for civil liberties. We have a Presidential election upon us that must be free of allegations of voter intimidation and fraud. The nation's chief prosecutor must be someone who the American people trust will not be motivated by partisan politics."

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