

**POSITION STATEMENT**  
**OPPOSITION TO THE NOMINATION OF ALBERTO GONZALES**  
**February 2, 2005**

The New Mexico Human Rights Coalition joins with the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights in its opposition to the nomination of Alberto Gonzales as the U.S. Attorney General.

The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR), several civil and human rights organizations, both nationally and here in New Mexico, and some military leaders have opposed the Gonzales nomination because of his troubling record and unresponsiveness to senators' questions concerning human rights, detention, torture, the death penalty, and other civil rights issues. On January 26, the Senate Judiciary Committee narrowly voted to send his nomination to the full Senate, with eight of the eighteen members voting against the nomination.

The Senate has the constitutional duty to conduct a full and fair review of the record of any executive branch nominee, including that of a prospective Attorney General. But despite pointed questions and repeated requests for memoranda and other information, Gonzales has failed to provide the relevant documents and full responses that would clarify his role in policies regarding torture, interrogation, and detention, and that would make clear his position on other important human and civil rights and liberties issues.

The NMHRC is hopeful that our representatives in New Mexico, do not fall into the category of simply "supporting a presidential nominee," but instead that they give it serious thought and conclude that an endorsement of Alberto Gonzales would not be in the best interest of the people of the United States.