

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FBI & DOMESTIC TERRORISM

**DOLE, HATCH & OKLAHOMA SENATORS SEEK ANSWERS FROM AG RENO ON
ADEQUACY OF GUIDELINES FOR FBI AUTHORITY:
FBI MAY NEED BOOST, BUT "TREAD VERY CAREFULLY", DOLE SAYS**

WASHINGTON -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole today issued the following statement, accompanied by the attached letter to Attorney General Janet Reno.

"All Americans of goodwill were appalled by the vicious bomb attack in Oklahoma City. Although there can never be absolute security in a free society, last week's attack is a bitter reminder that we must constantly re-evaluate our efforts in the fight against terrorism," Dole said.

"During the past several days, there has been considerable discussion concerning 'The Attorney General's Guidelines on General Crimes, Racketeering Enterprise, and Domestic Security/Terrorism Investigations.' Some observers have argued that these Guidelines have hindered the ability of the FBI to infiltrate, monitor, and conduct surveillance activities against, terrorist organizations operating within the United States.

"Before jumping to any conclusions about the adequacy of the Guidelines, and more generally, about the ability of federal law enforcement to prevent terrorist acts by domestic organizations, it is critical that we get all the facts. That's why I have joined with Senators Hatch, Nickles, and Inhofe, in asking Attorney General Reno to provide us with a full report on the history of, effectiveness of, and any proposed changes to the Guidelines. The FBI may in fact need new and stronger investigative tools. But, we should tread very carefully when considering proposals to expand the FBI's authority to investigate domestic organizations," Dole concluded.

** A copy of the letter from Dole, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Senator Don Nickles (R-OK) and Senator James Inhofe (R-OK) to Attorney General Reno is attached.

(over)

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

The Honorable Janet Reno
U.S. Department of Justice
10th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Reno:

As a result of the tragic bomb attack in Oklahoma City, there has been considerable discussion in the media and elsewhere concerning The Attorney General's Guidelines on General Crimes, Racketeering Enterprise, and Domestic Security/Terrorism Investigations (the "Guidelines").

Some observers have argued that the Guidelines, as currently drafted, have hindered the ability of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to monitor, infiltrate, and conduct surveillance of known terrorist organizations operating within the United States. Others argue that the Guidelines provide the FBI with ample authority and guidance, and should not be revised. Still others insist that the Guidelines go too far and that the authority of the FBI should be further restricted.

We need to eliminate any confusion. In an effort to separate fact from fiction, it would be helpful to us if you could provide answers to the following questions:

- * When were the Guidelines first implemented?
- * Have the Guidelines been modified over the years, and if so, why?
- * Do you believe that the Guidelines provide adequate authority to the FBI to monitor the activities of domestic terrorist organizations?
- * What is the relationship between the Guidelines and The Attorney General's Guidelines for FBI Foreign Intelligence Collection and Counterterrorism Investigations?
- * Are you aware of any instances when an FBI agent sought authority to initiate an investigation of, or use more intrusive investigative techniques against, a domestic organization suspected of being engaged in terrorist activities, and this authority was denied?
- * Do you intend to propose changes to the Guidelines? If so, what are those changes and how do you intend to implement them?
- * Do you agree with some observers that the FBI has been reluctant to initiate surveillance activities of terrorist organizations operating in the United States, fearing that such activities will have "political" consequences?

More generally, we would appreciate your views as to the adequacy of the Guidelines as an investigative tool in the fight against terrorism.

Attorney General Reno, thank you for your prompt attention to this request. As you may know, we intend to begin consideration of comprehensive anti-terrorism legislation later this week. Consequently, we would appreciate a response as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Bob Dole

John Hatch

Don Wilkey

Jim Curb